5

PETOS

INTERVIEWS WITH MONSTER GIRLS

INTERVIEWS WITH MONSTER GIRLS

Volume 5

INTERVIEWS WITH MONSTER GIRLS Characters

Dullahan

Kyoko Machi
Class 1-B

- A demi of Irish folklore whose head and body are separate.
- Likes her head to be held.
- In love with Takahashi-sensei.
- Top grades—has even been No. 1 in her class.

Succubus

Sakie Sato

- Math teacher.
- Lives in an isolated, dilapidated house so as not to unintentionally arouse anyone.
- Has a crush on Takahashi-sensei; has tried to arouse him.
- Romantic history: zilch.

Snow Woman

Yuki Kusakabe
Class 1-A

- Exudes cold air and weeps ice under stress.
- At first, avoided contact with others due to doubts about her own nature.
- Embarrassed to admit she likes gag manga; tries to hide it.

Himari Takanashi
Class 1-C

- Human
- Hikari's younger twin sister.
- Good grades, mature attitude—polar opposite of her sister.

Soma

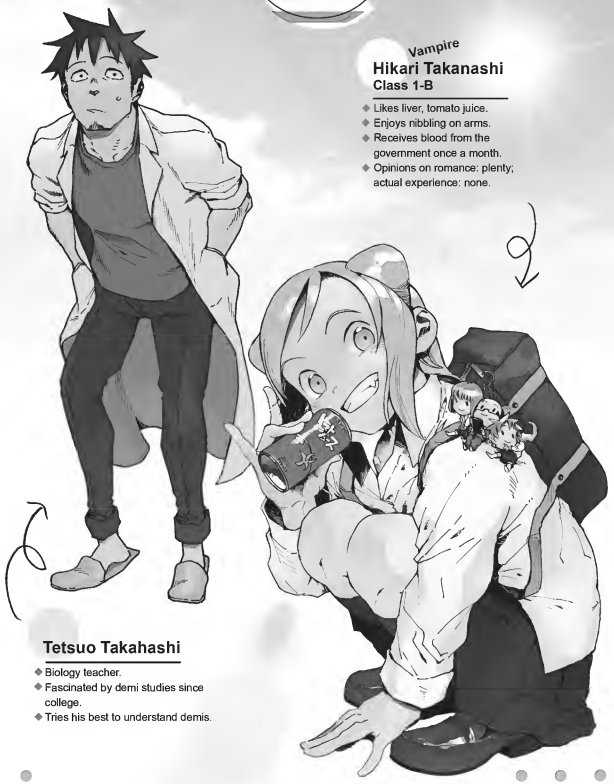
- Assistant Professor at Musashino University of Science.
- Physicist.
- Takahashi-sensei's college classmate.

Koji Takanashi

- Father of Hikari and Himari; stay-at-home dad.
- On good terms with Kyoko's parents.
- Trying to learn not to shake too much while carrying Kyoko's head.

"Demi-humans" are just a little different from us—
these days, they go by "Demis."
Their problems are as adorable as they are.

*DEMIS: SHORT FOR "DEMI-HUMANS."



Vampire

Hikari Takanashi
Class 1-B

- Likes liver, tomato juice.
- Enjoys nibbling on arms.
- Receives blood from the government once a month.
- Opinions on romance: plenty; actual experience: none.

Tetsuo Takahashi

- Biology teacher.
- Fascinated by demi studies since college.
- Tries his best to understand demis.

Can: tomato juice

INTERVIEWS WITH MONSTER GIRLS

CONTENTS

5

Chapter 31 … Summer's Just Around the Corner 5

Chapter 32 … Demis Want to Be Cool 19

Chapter 33 … Demis Want to Swim 35

Chapter 34 … Try Everything Once 53

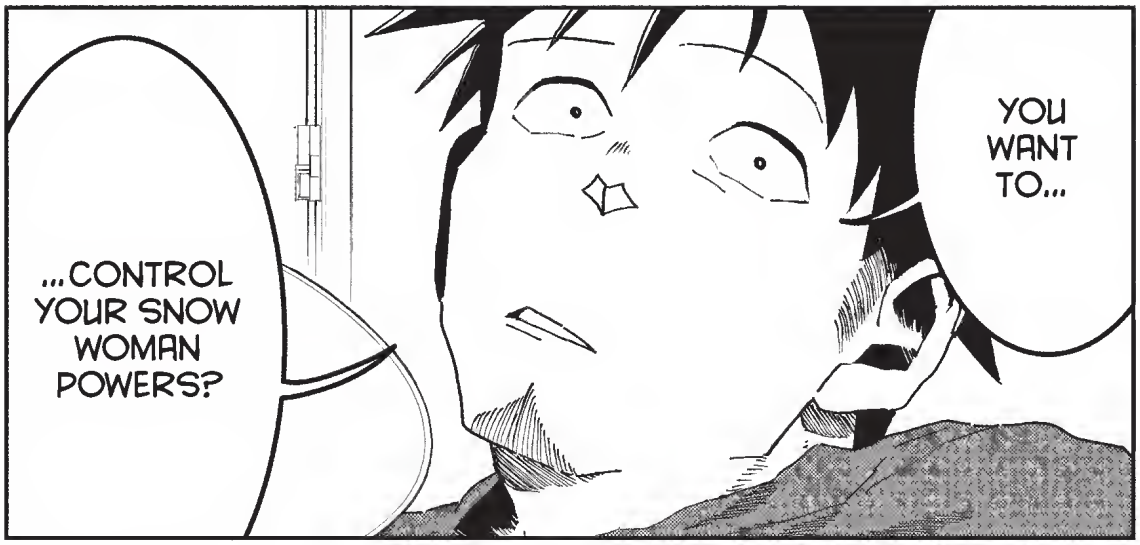
Chapter 35 … Takanashi Talk 73

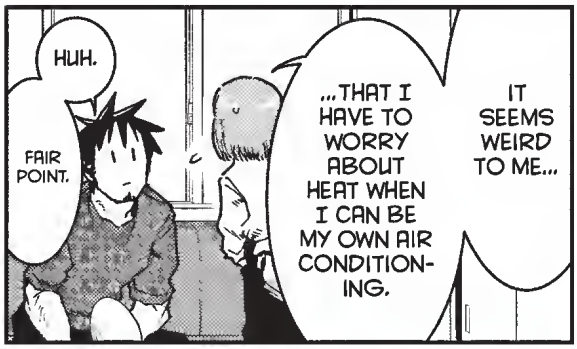
Chapter 36 … A Zashiki-warashi's Happiness (Part 1) 91

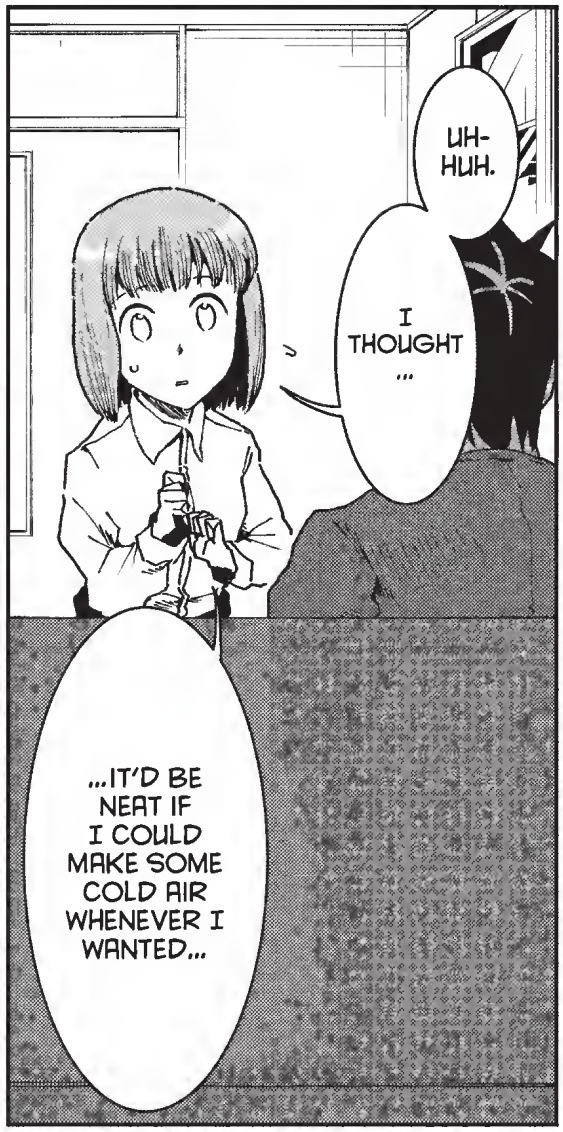
Chapter 37 … A Zashiki-warashi's Happiness (Part 2) 119

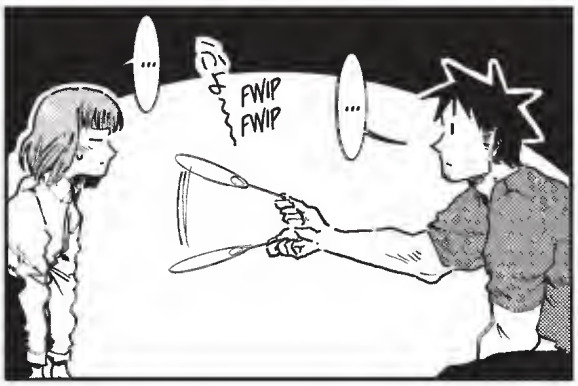
Bonus Chapter … Ugaki & Kurtz in: The Flummoxed Flatfoot 133

Chapter 31: Summer's Just Around the Corner



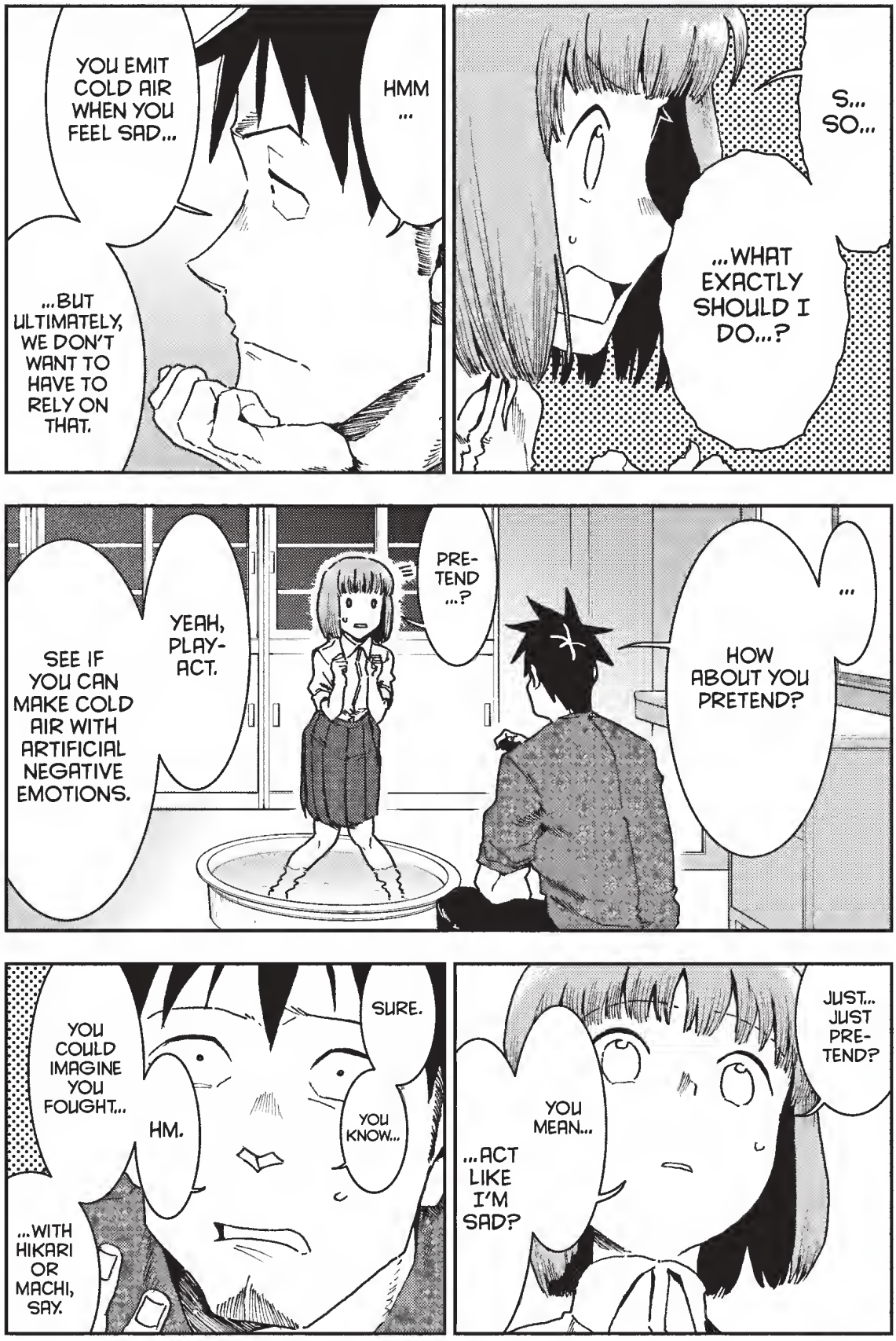


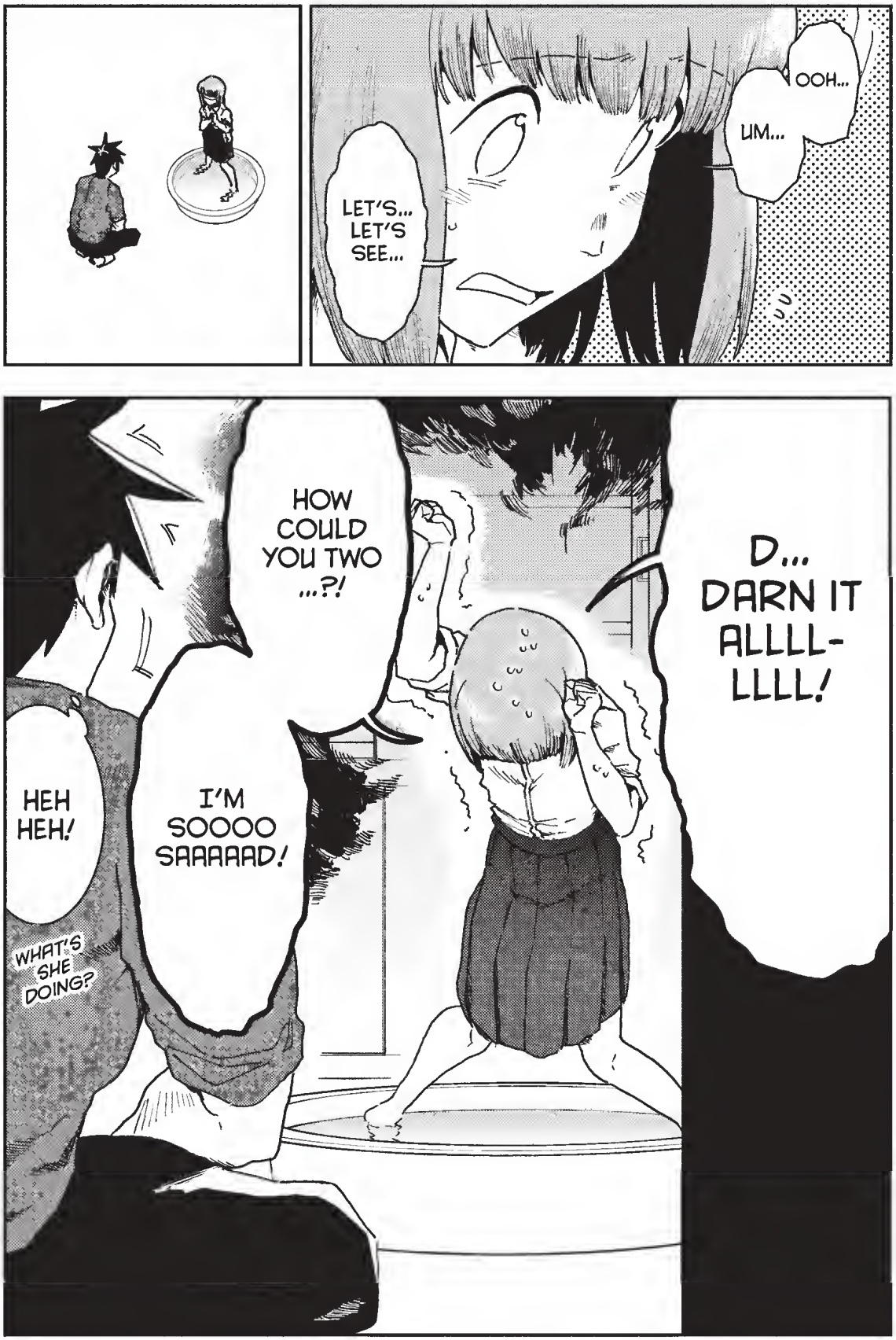




SPLISH
チャプ…
HA HA!
THIS IS FAMILIAR!
YEAH, WE'RE KIND OF GOING BACK TO OUR ROOTS.

JUST TO REVIEW...
...SNOW WOMEN'S POWERS SPRING FROM NEGATIVE EMOTIONS.
THEY GET COLD SWEATS WHEN NERVOUS OR STRESSED, AND THEY CRY FROZEN TEARS WHEN SAD.
AND WHEN THEY'RE REALLY DE-PRESSED...
...THEY EMIT COLD AIR.
RIGHT!
FWOOOO
ヒュオオ
オオ....
LET'S WORRY ABOUT FINE CONTROL LATER.
FOR STARTERS, JUST TRY TO PRODUCE SOME COLD AIR ANY WAY YOU CAN.
OKAY!
IT MIGHT MAKE YOU SWEAT. YOU CAN WASH THAT OFF IN THE TUB.

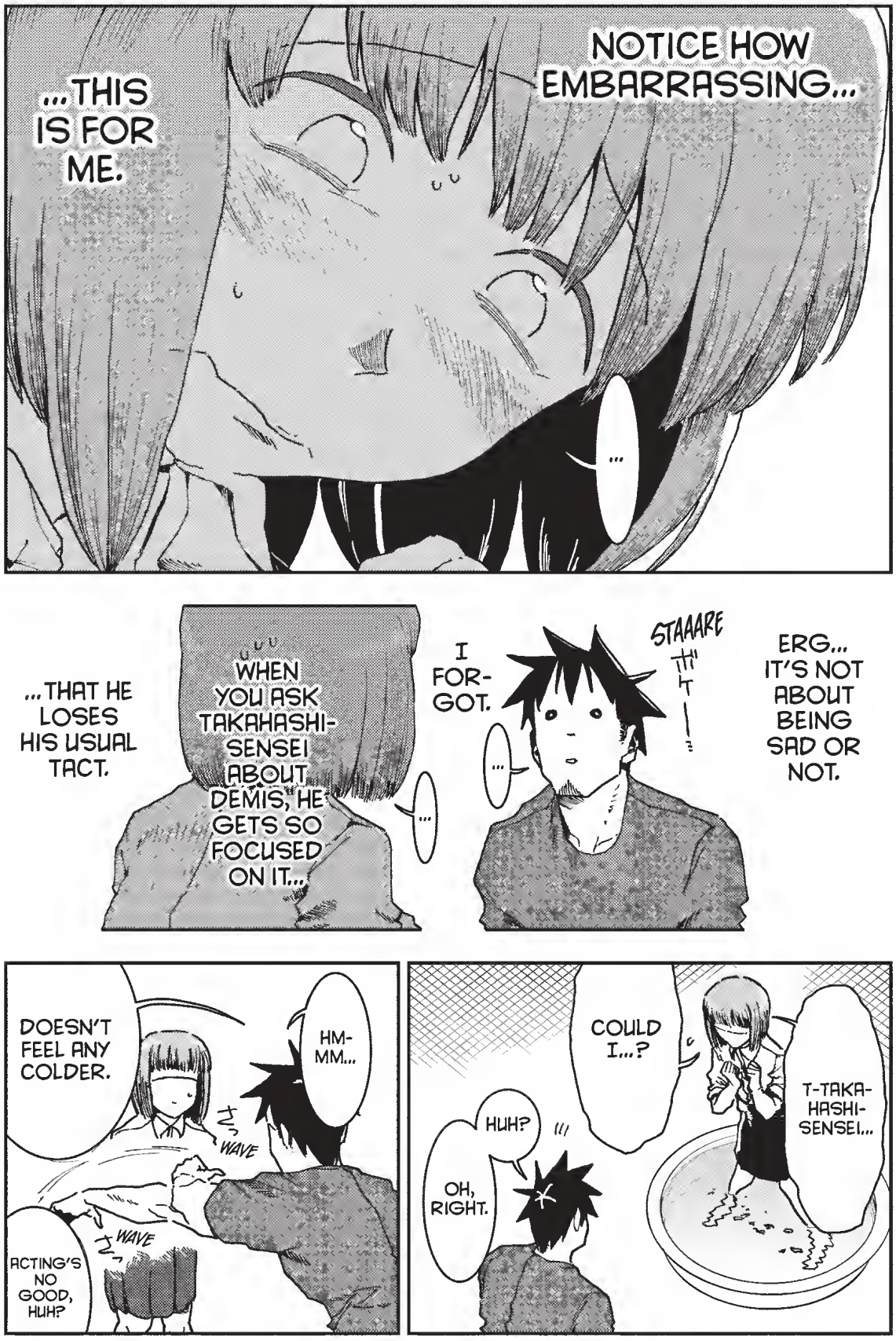

HMM ...
YOU EMIT COLD AIR WHEN YOU FEEL SAD...
...BUT ULTIMATELY, WE DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO RELY ON THAT.
S... SO...
...WHAT EXACTLY SHOULD I DO...?
...
HOW ABOUT YOU PRETEND?
PRE-TEND ...?
YEAH, PLAY-ACT.
SEE IF YOU CAN MAKE COLD AIR WITH ARTIFICIAL NEGATIVE EMOTIONS.
JUST... JUST PRE-TEND?
YOU MEAN...
...ACT LIKE I'M SAD?
SURE.
YOU KNOW...
HM.
YOU COULD IMAGINE YOU FOUGHT...
...WITH HIKARI OR MACHI, SAY.

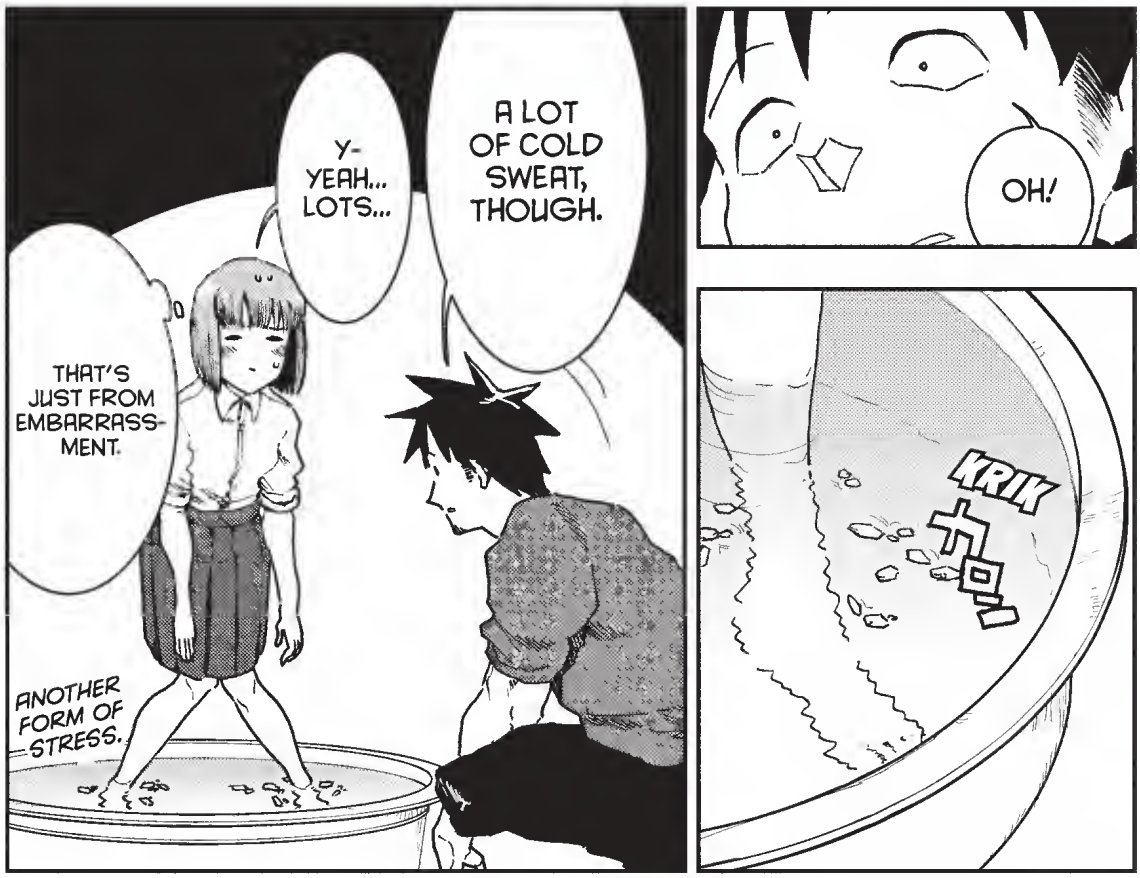

LET'S... LET'S SEE...
UM...
OOH...
D... DARN IT ALLLL-LLLL!
HOW COULD YOU TWO ...?!
I'M SOOOO SAAAAAD!
HEH HEH!
WHAT'S SHE DOING?

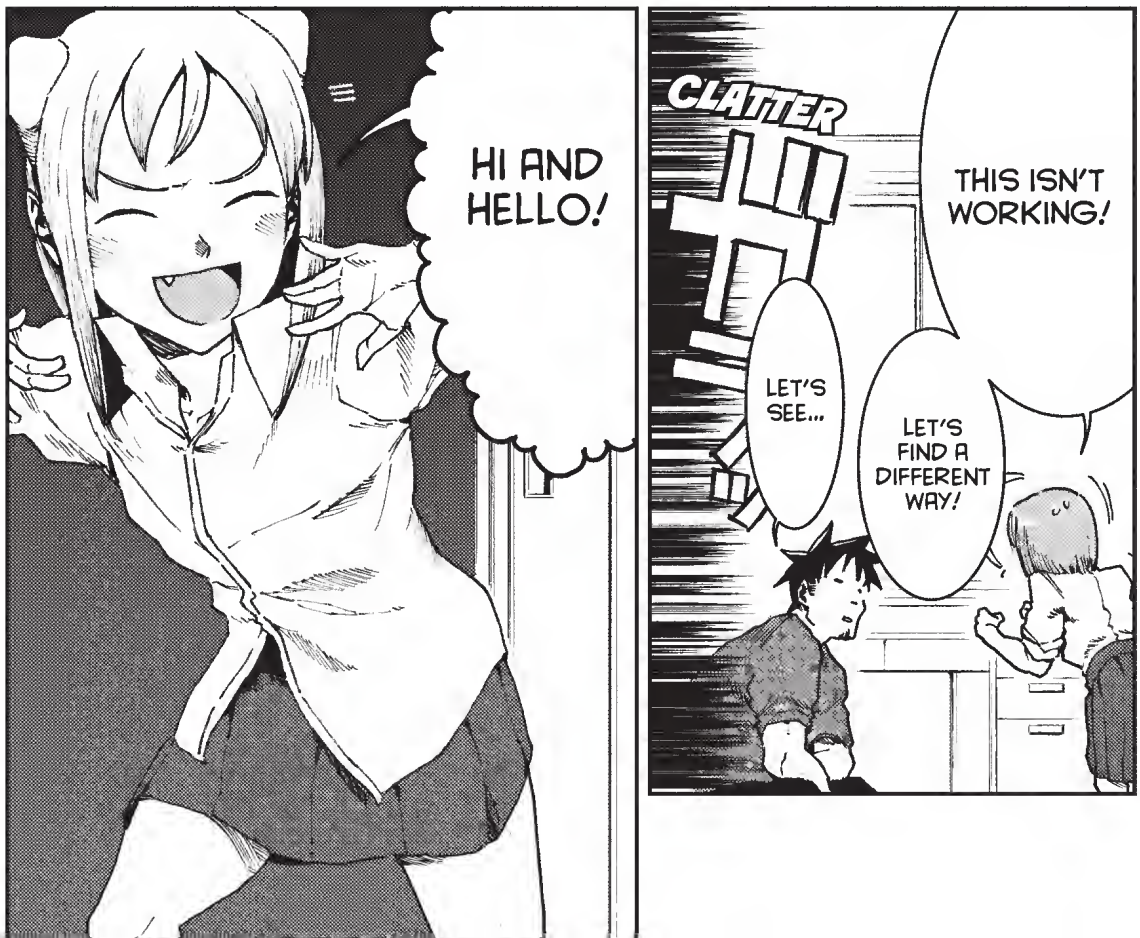
...
CONVIN-CING.
IT SURE FEELS LIKE SHE COULD REACH A NEW ABILITY.
WHYYYY YOUUU-UUUU!
NO!
MUSTN'T LAUGH.
'SHE'S TRYING HER BEST.
SNOW WOMAN POWERS AREN'T WELL UNDER-STOOD.
HMM.
SOOOOOO SAAAAADDD
...
ABILITY... ABILITY...
SNOW WOMEN MIGHT HAVE COLD BODIES, BUT IT ISN'T BIOLOGICALLY POSSIBLE FOR THEIR BODILY FLUIDS TO BE CLOSER TO FREEZING BECAUSE OF THAT.
NO.
PROB-ABLY NOT.
...MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE CLOSER TO THE FREEZING POINT TO BEGIN WITH.
BUT IF THEIR TEARS AND SWEAT FREEZE...

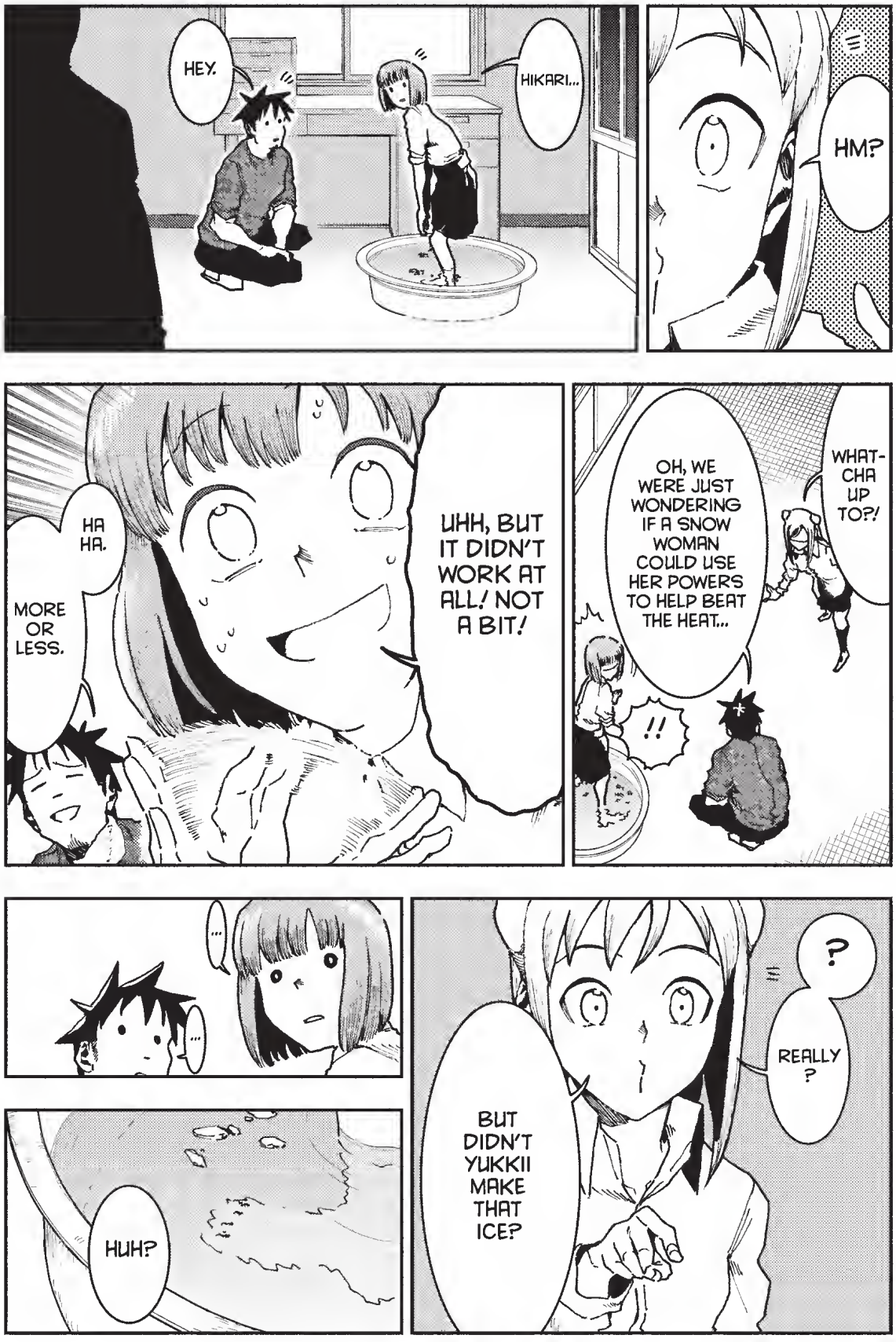
AND EMOTIONS ARE...
INTEN-TIONS.
NEGATIVE EMOTIONS...
WHAT IS IT?
WHEN THEY EXPERIENCE NEGATIVE EMOTIONS...
...SOME-THING ACTS ON THE TEARS OR SWEAT LEAVING THEIR BODY...
...AND FREEZES THEM.
TEARS
SOME-THING
SWEAT
SOMETHING
AIR
AIR
AIR
TO SAY THAT SNOW WOMEN EMIT COLD AIR JUST MEANS THAT THIS "SOMETHING" COOLS THE AIR AROUND THEM.
INTENTION
PHENO-MENON
HUMAN INTENTIONS...
...CAN INFLUENCE PHENOMENA!
SOMA
ASST. PROFESSOR, MUSASHINO UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
BUT WHAT IF THE "INTENTIONS" OF A SNOW WOMAN'S NEGATIVITY CAN PSYCHICALLY COOL OBJECTS?
MAYBE EVEN CONTROL THE MOTION OF MOLECULES?
HRR-RRM.
AND I SO ENJOYED MAKING FUN OF HIS THEORIES.

...A SUCCUBUS'S POWER TO AROUSE—TO INFLUENCE PEOPLE'S INTENTIONS—SHOULD HAVE A PHYSICAL CAUSE, TOO.
S
IF "INTENTION" CAN BE DEFINED PHYSICALLY, THEN...
PHYSICAL
INTENTION
INTENTION
HANG ON...
I HOPE...
...
...
STAAARE
ガヤ——!!!
...
CURSE YOUU-UUU!
...
I HOPE...
...HE'LL NOTICE SOON.

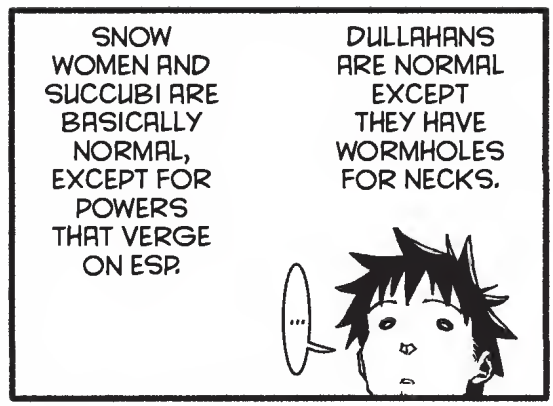

...THIS IS FOR ME.
NOTICE HOW EMBARRASSING...
...
ERG... IT'S NOT ABOUT BEING SAD OR NOT.
STAAARE
I FOR-GOT.
...
...THAT HE LOSES HIS USUAL TACT.
WHEN YOU ASK TAKAHASHI-SENSEI ABOUT DEMIS, HE GETS SO FOCUSED ON IT...
...
T-TAKA-HASHI-SENSEI...
COULD I...?
HUH?
OH, RIGHT.
HM-MM...
DOESN'T FEEL ANY COLDER.
WAVE
WAVE
ACTING'S NO GOOD, HUH?

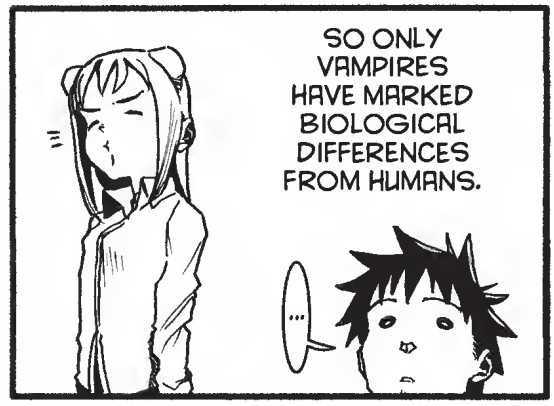

A LOT OF COLD SWEAT, THOUGH.
Y-YEAH... LOTS...
THAT'S JUST FROM EMBARRASS-MENT.
ANOTHER FORM OF STRESS.
OH!
KRIK

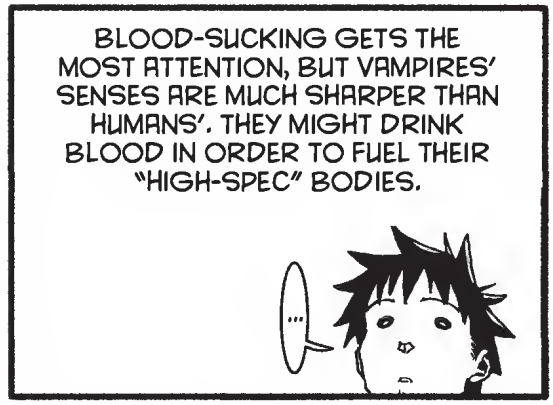

HI AND HELLO!
CLATTER
THIS ISN'T WORKING!
LET'S SEE...
LET'S FIND A DIFFERENT WAY!

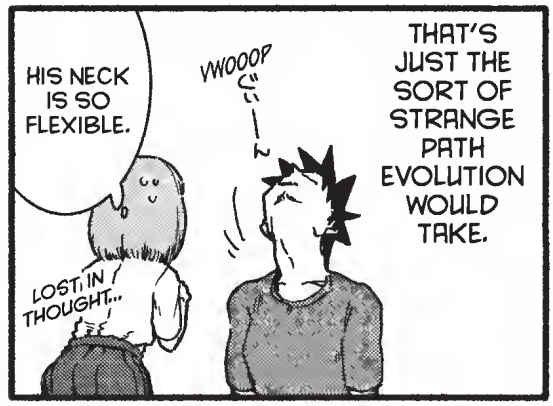

HEY.
HIKARI...
HM?
UHH, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK AT ALL! NOT A BIT!
HA HA.
MORE OR LESS.
OH, WE WERE JUST WONDERING IF A SNOW WOMAN COULD USE HER POWERS TO HELP BEAT THE HEAT...
!!
WHAT-CHA UP TO?!
...
...
HUH?
BUT DIDN'T YUKKII MAKE THAT ICE?
REALLY ?
?

KRAK
CURRRSEEE YOUUUU!
LOOK OUT, YUKKII! THE ICE IS MELTING!
I SAY WE CALL IT HERE FOR TODAY.
WELP.
WOW! IT'S PERFECT— COOL AND REFRESHING!


SNOW WOMEN AND SUCCUBI ARE BASICALLY NORMAL, EXCEPT FOR POWERS THAT VERGE ON ESP.
DULLAHANS ARE NORMAL EXCEPT THEY HAVE WORMHOLES FOR NECKS.
...


SO ONLY VAMPIRES HAVE MARKED BIOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES FROM HUMANS.
...

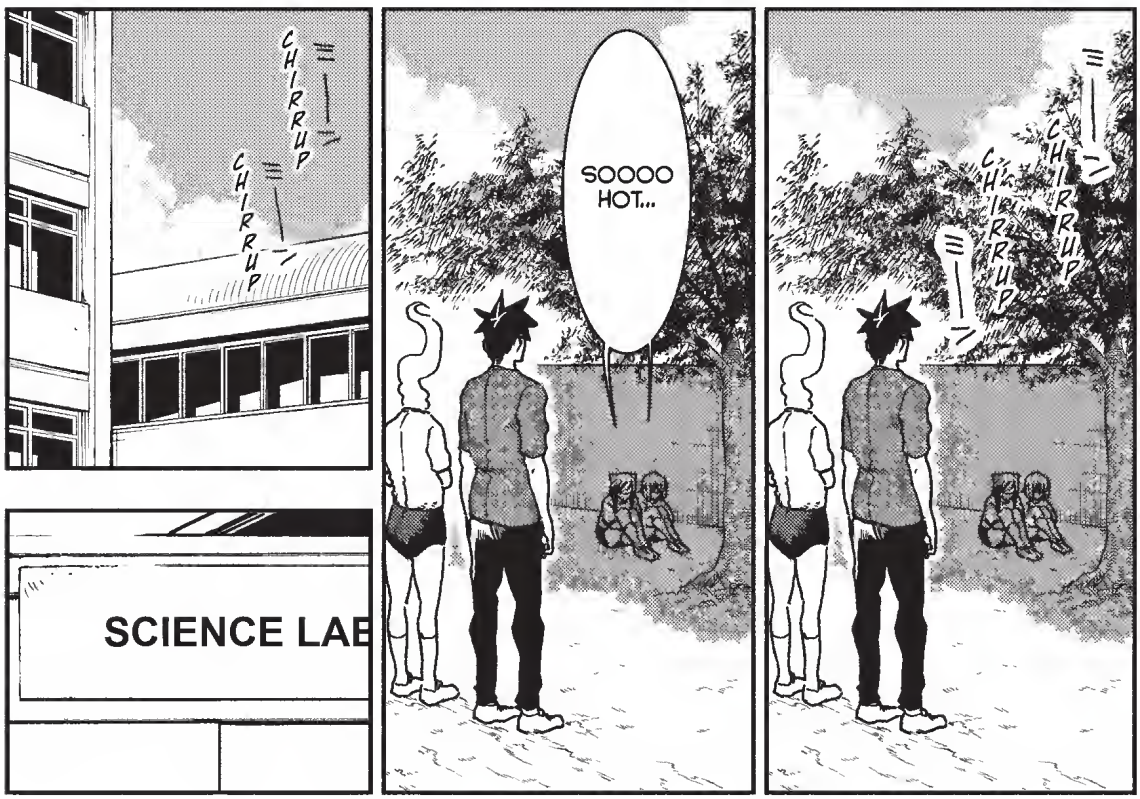

BLOOD-SUCKING GETS THE MOST ATTENTION, BUT VAMPIRES' SENSES ARE MUCH SHARPER THAN HUMANS'. THEY MIGHT DRINK BLOOD IN ORDER TO FUEL THEIR "HIGH-SPEC" BODIES.
...


HIS NECK IS SO FLEXIBLE.
LOST IN THOUGHT...
VWOOOP
ぐぐ〜ん
THAT'S JUST THE SORT OF STRANGE PATH EVOLUTION WOULD TAKE.

INTERVIEWS WITH MONSTER GIRLS

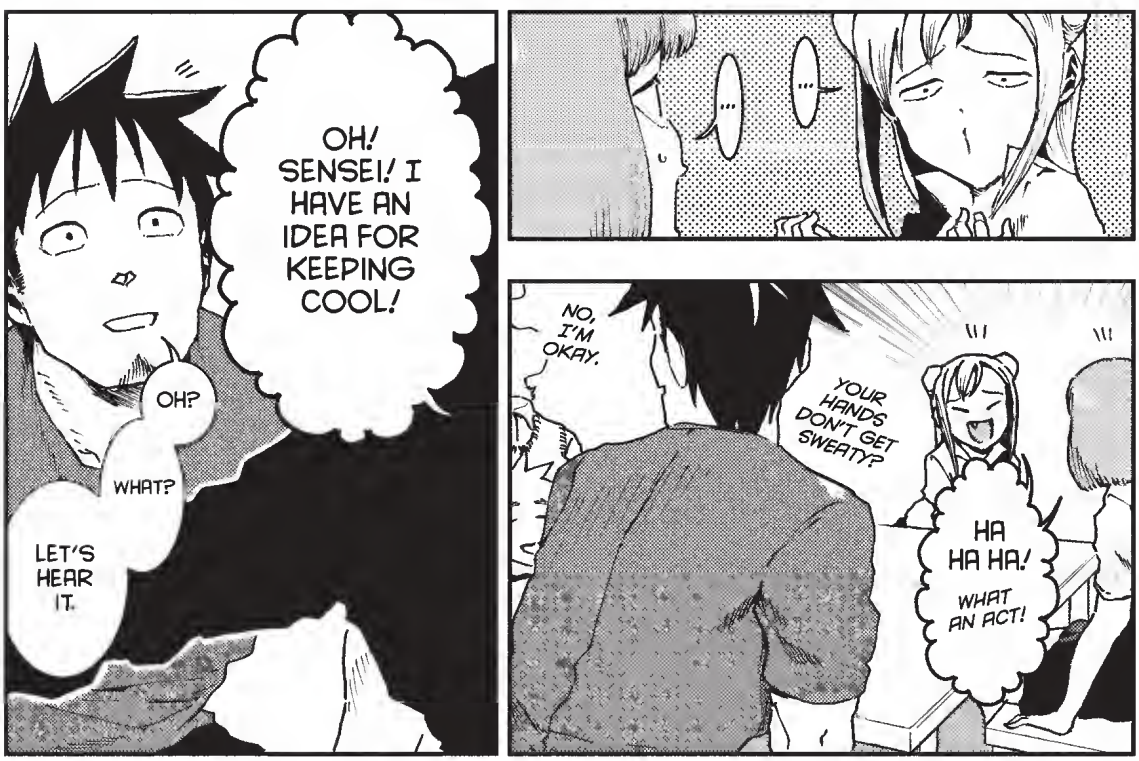
Chapter 32: Demis Want to Be Cool

CHIRRUP
ミーン
CHIP
ミン
...
...
CHIRRUP
ミーン
CHIRRUP
ミーン

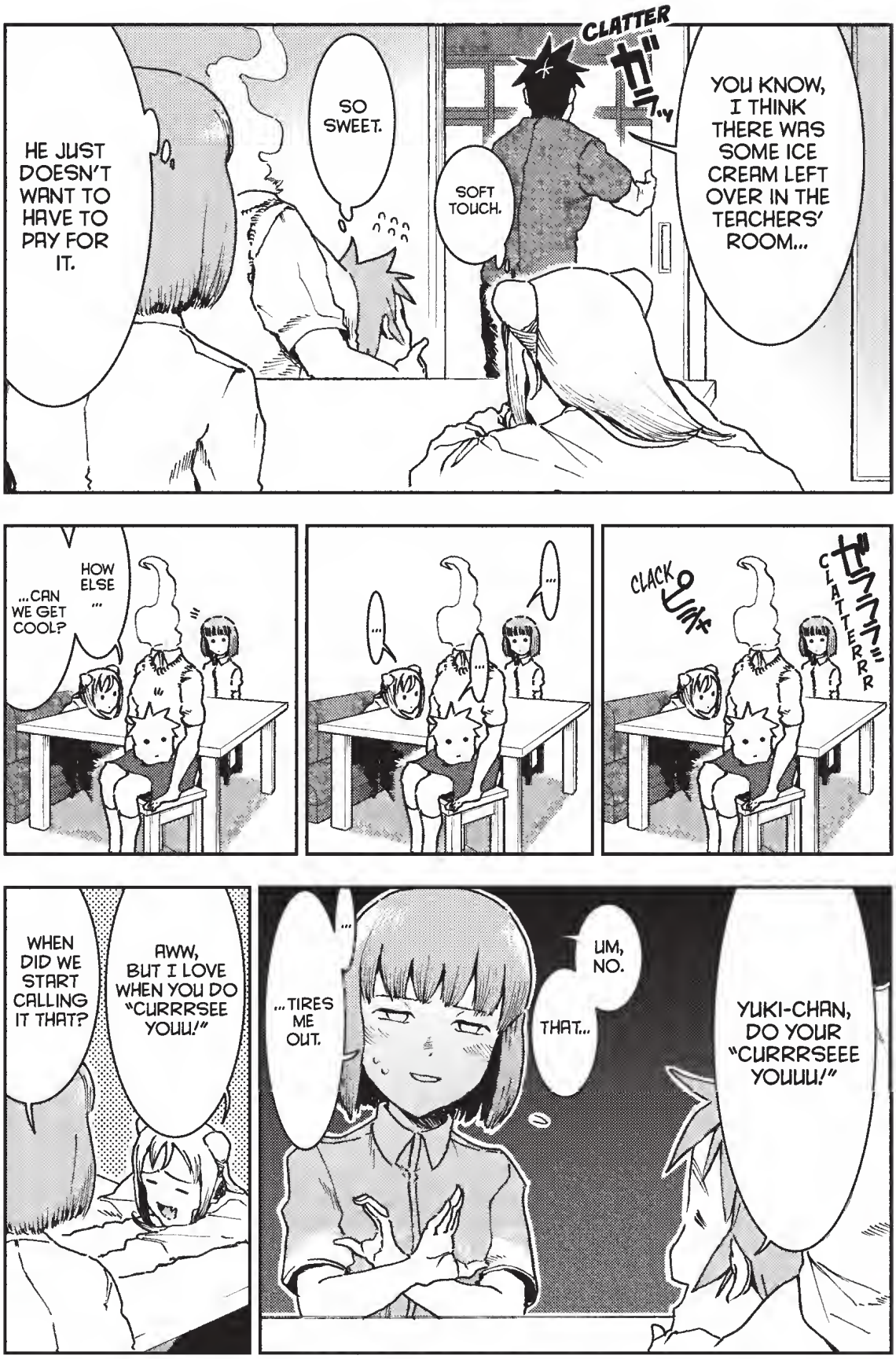

ミーン
CHIRRUP
CHIRRUP
ミーン
SOOOO HOT...
ミーン
CHIRRUP
CHIRRUP
ミーン
SCIENCE LAB

AHH-HHH!
THAT'S BETTER!
NOTHING LIKE A/C. YOU MUST BE ONE IMPORTANT SENSEI!
WELL, LOTS OF THINGS IN HERE CAN'T GET TOO HOT.
I THINK WE'VE HAD THIS DISCUSSION...
'KAY.
DON'T STAY IN HERE FOREVER, OKAY?
MODERATION!
SORRY. I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE HEAT...
AWWW.
SUMMER SUCKS FOR VAMPIRES!
I'M A SNOW WOMAN, HERE...
ERK.
ERK.

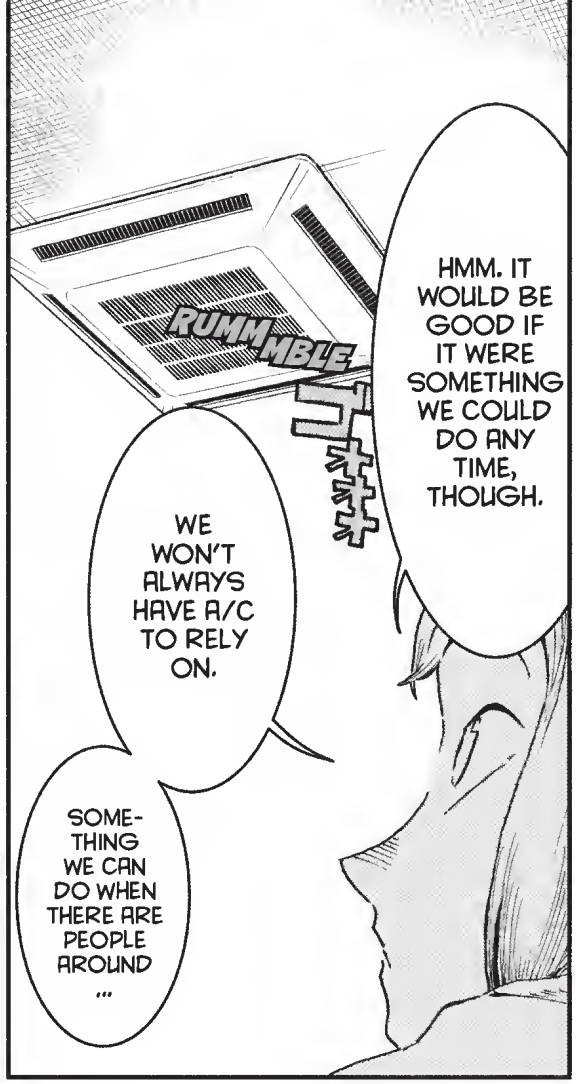
IT'S... IT'S NOT EASY FOR SNOW WOMEN, EITHER.
OUR LOW BODY TEMP MEANS EVERYTHING FEELS HOTTER TO US.
AND WE DON'T SWEAT MUCH, EITHER!
IT'S WAAAAY WORSE FOR VAM-PIRES!
WE BURN SO EASY, I CAN'T EVEN WEAR SHORT SLEEVES.
AND THE SUN IS SOOOOO BRIGHT!

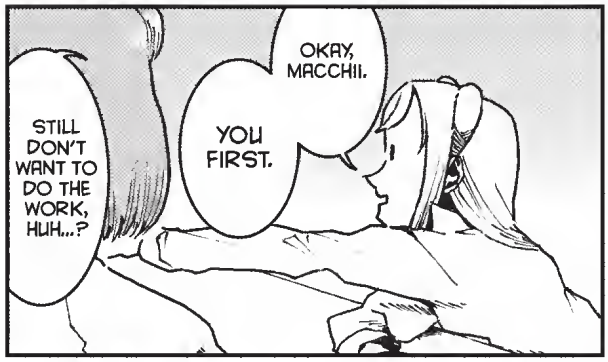

OH! SENSEI! I HAVE AN IDEA FOR KEEPING COOL!
OH?
WHAT?
LET'S HEAR IT.
...
...
NO, I'M OKAY.
YOUR HANDS DON'T GET SWEATY?
HA HA HA!
WHAT AN ACT!

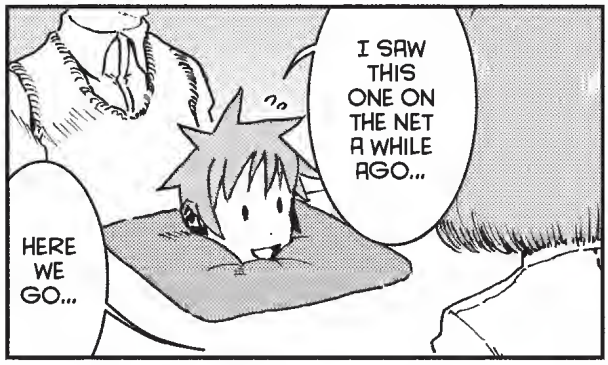
WATERMELON! BUY US ONE?
GOSH...
WE HAVE TO CALM DOWN IF WE WANT TO COOL DOWN.
AND WATER-MELONS ARE EXPEN-SIVE! NO BEGGING ALLOWED.
SHEESH...
...
NYAAAA!
THAT'S AN AWFULLY HOT-HEADED REQUEST!
HA HA HA!


HE JUST DOESN'T WANT TO HAVE TO PAY FOR IT.
SO SWEET.
SOFT TOUCH.
CLATTER
ガラ
YOU KNOW, I THINK THERE WAS SOME ICE CREAM LEFT OVER IN THE TEACHERS' ROOM...
...CAN WE GET COOL?
HOW ELSE ...
...
...
CLACK
ゼラララ
CLATTERRR
WHEN DID WE START CALLING IT THAT?
AWW, BUT I LOVE WHEN YOU DO "CURRRSEE YOUU!"
...
...TIRES ME OUT.
UM, NO.
THAT...
YUKI-CHAN, DO YOUR "CURRRSEEE YOUUU!"

H—
HOW ABOUT...
...SCARY STORIES?
FLFF...


RUMMMBLE
HMM. IT WOULD BE GOOD IF IT WERE SOMETHING WE COULD DO ANY TIME, THOUGH.
WE WON'T ALWAYS HAVE A/C TO RELY ON.
SOME-THING WE CAN DO WHEN THERE ARE PEOPLE AROUND ...

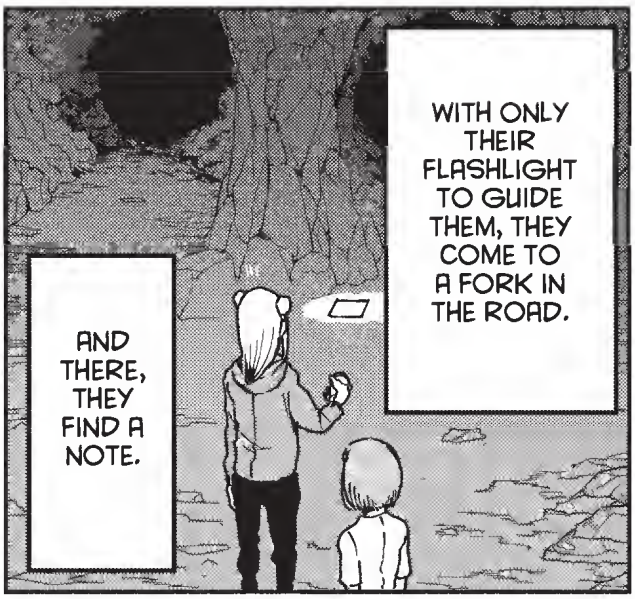

STILL DON'T WANT TO DO THE WORK, HUH...?
YOU FIRST.
OKAY, MACCHII.

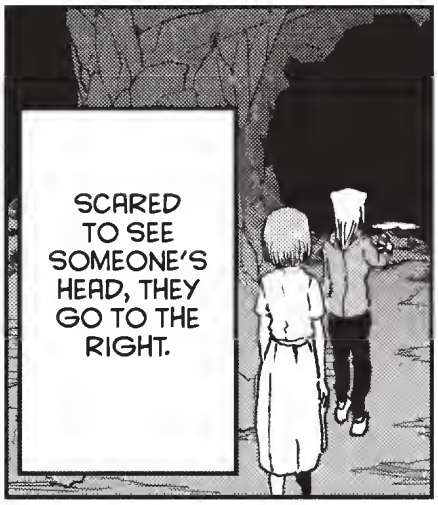

HERE WE GO...
I SAW THIS ONE ON THE NET A WHILE AGO...

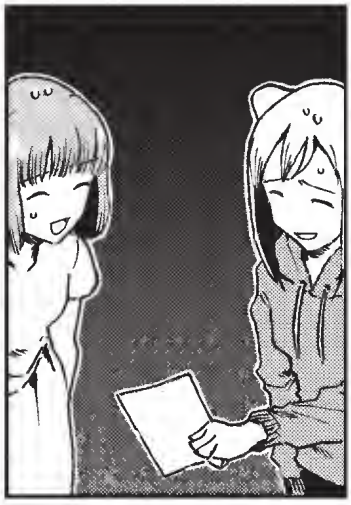
MAKE THE BLOOD RUN COLD— GREAT IDEA!
THAT'S IT!
SCARY STORIES!
R—
RIGHT ...

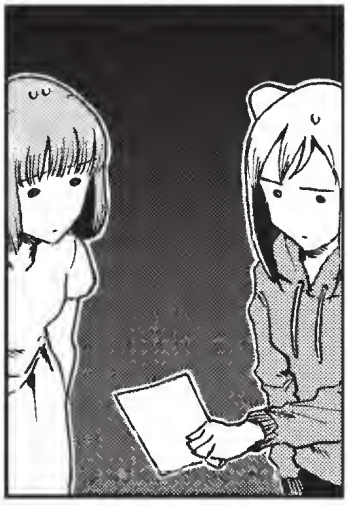
THESE TWO ADVEN-TUROUS GIRLS...
...GO INTO A CAVE WHERE THERE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN A MURDER ONCE.

I KILLED SOMEONE. THEIR HEAD IS TO THE LEFT, THEIR BODY IS TO THE RIGHT.

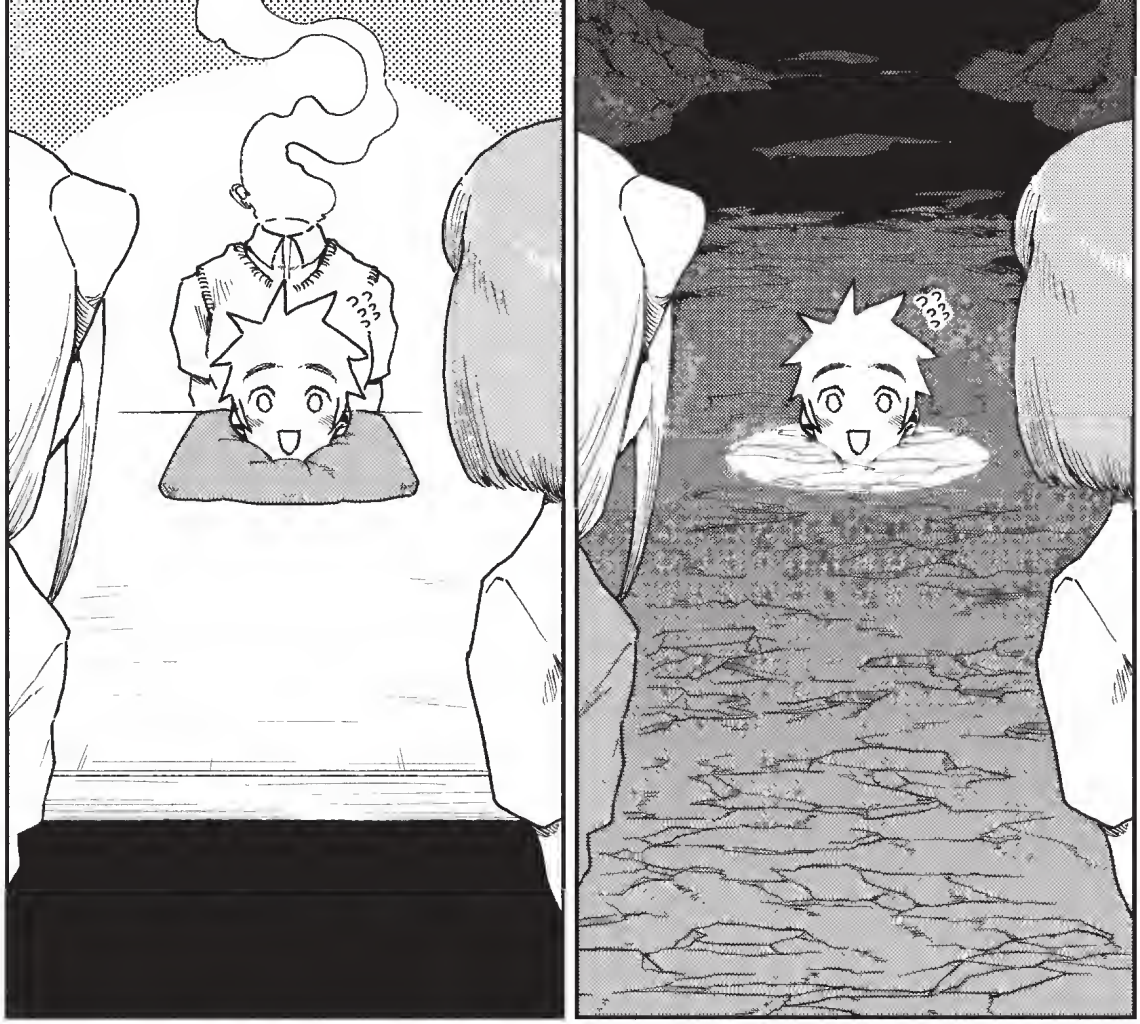

WITH ONLY THEIR FLASHLIGHT TO GUIDE THEM, THEY COME TO A FORK IN THE ROAD.
AND THERE, THEY FIND A NOTE.

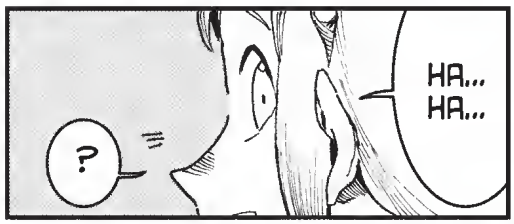

SCARED TO SEE SOMEONE'S HEAD, THEY GO TO THE RIGHT.

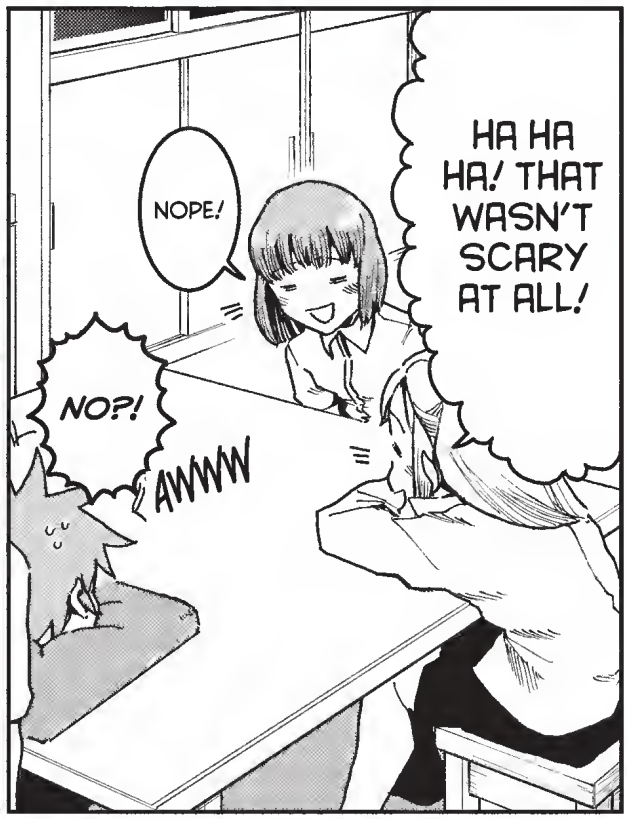




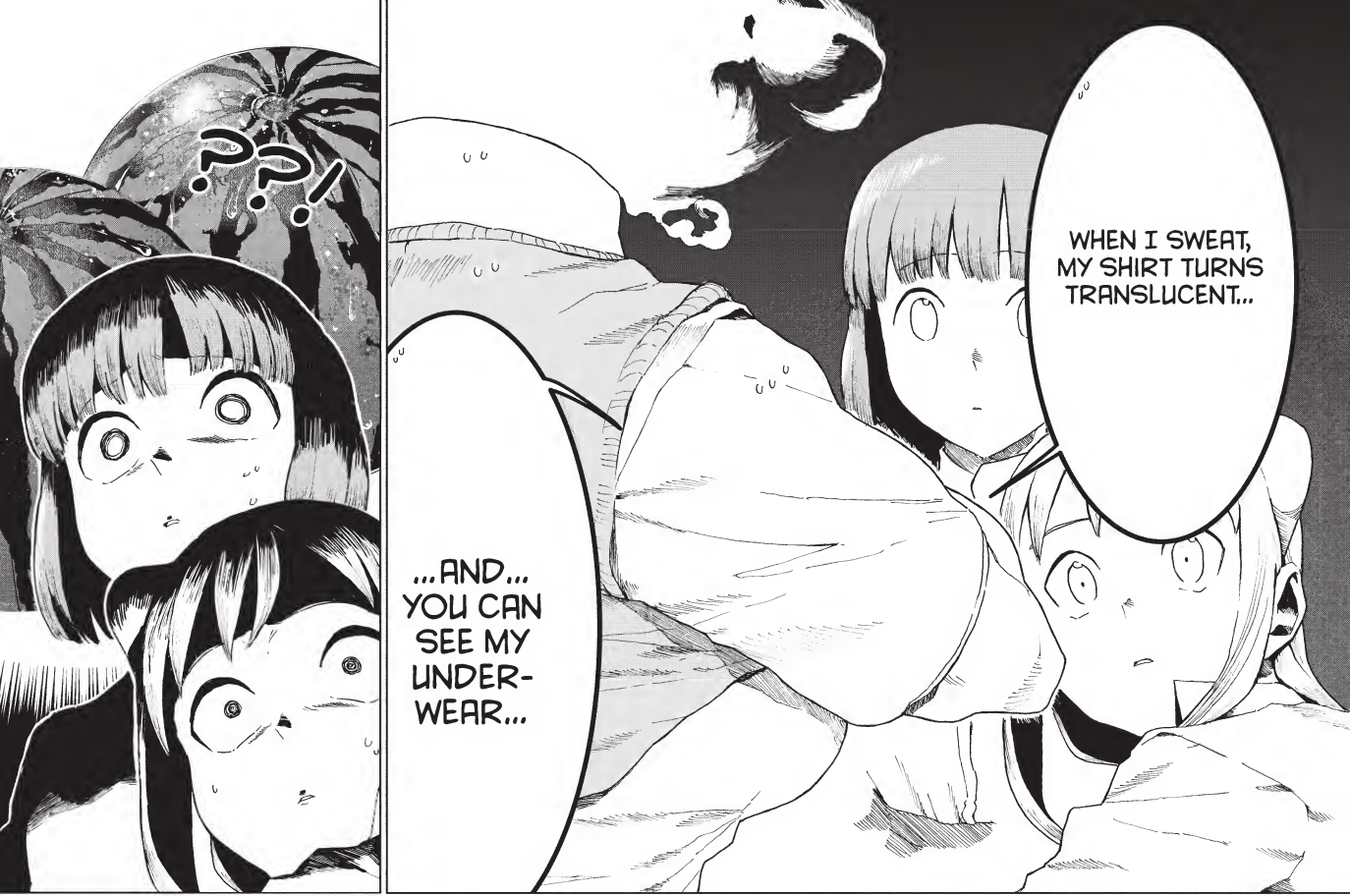
NEXT TO THE CORPSE IS ANOTHER NOTE.
AT THE END OF THE PATH, THEY REALLY DO FIND A HEADLESS BODY.
THEY'RE ALMOST A LITTLE RELIEVED.
EEK
SCRITCH
ばっ
THE HEAD IS COMING UP BEHIND YOU...



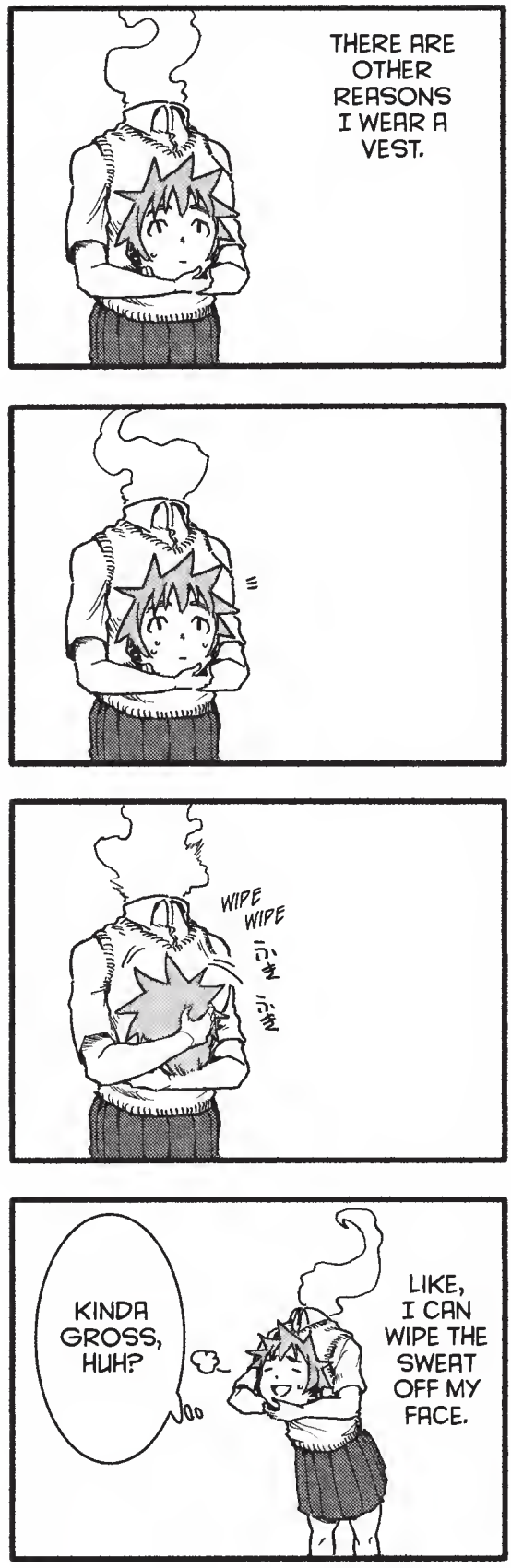

HA...
HA...
?


HA HA HA! THAT WASN'T SCARY AT ALL!
NOPE!
NO?!
AWWW

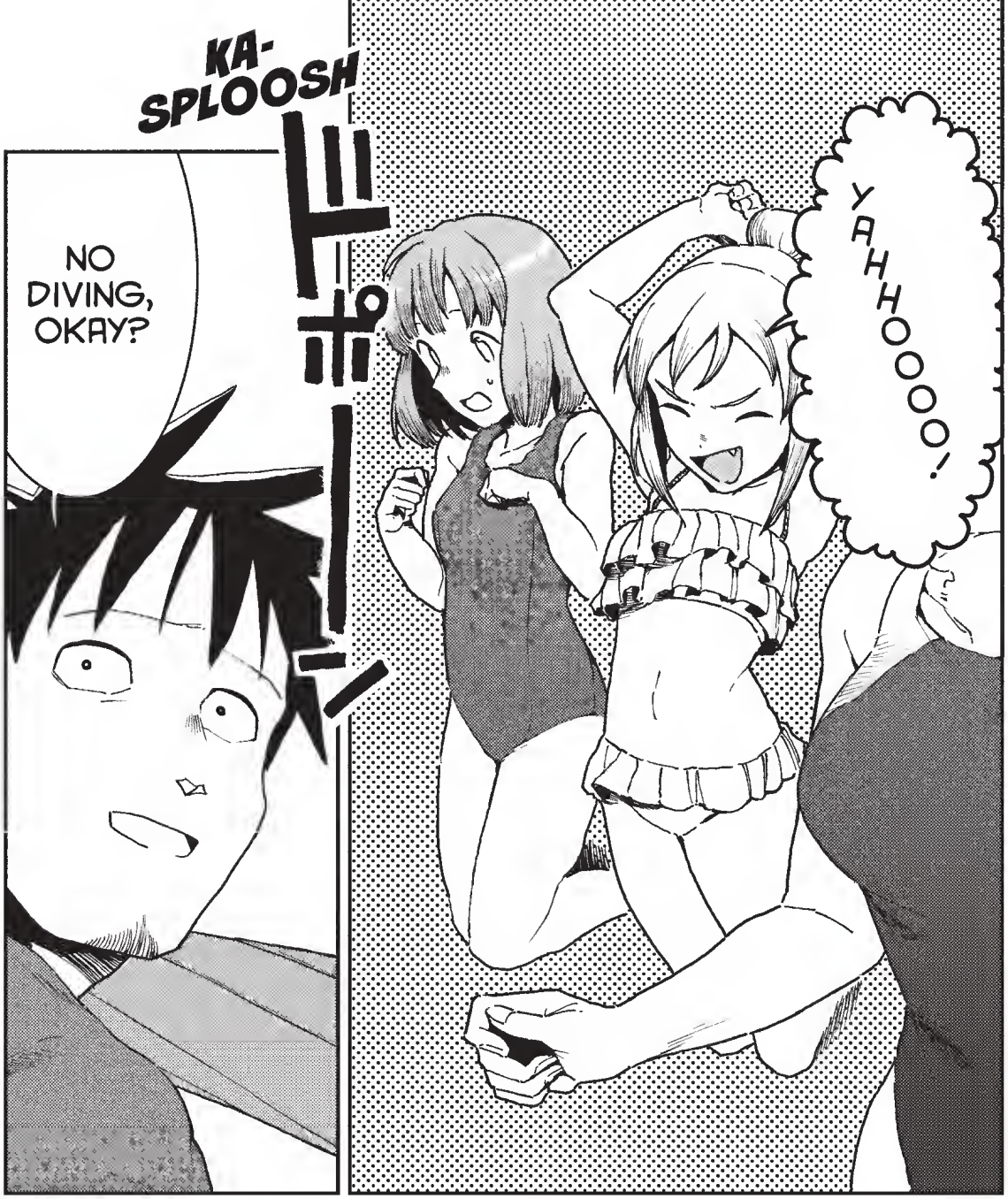
WELL...
I GUESS I'M WARMER THAN WITHOUT IT...
HEY, YOU'RE WEARING A VEST, MACCHII.
OH, YEAH.
AREN'T YOU HOT?
OH.
UH... NO...
?
?
DON'T YOU FEEL SWEATY?
OR DON'T YOU SWEAT MUCH?
ACTU-ALLY...
I TEND TO SWEAT A LOT...
?
?
SO WHY ARE YOU WEARING A VEST?
UMM...
WELL, YOU KNOW...

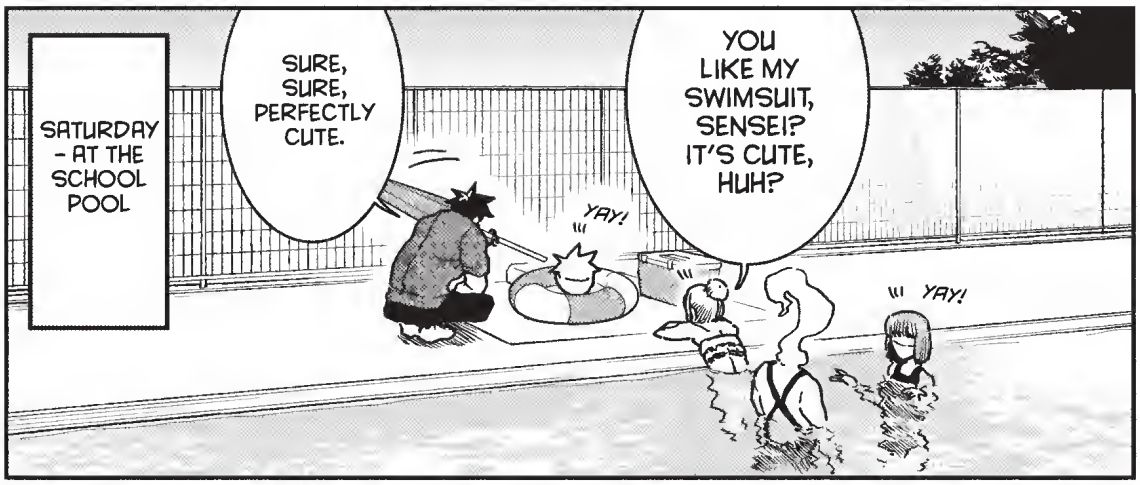

WHEN I SWEAT, MY SHIRT TURNS TRANSLUCENT...
...AND... YOU CAN SEE MY UNDER-WEAR...
?!?!

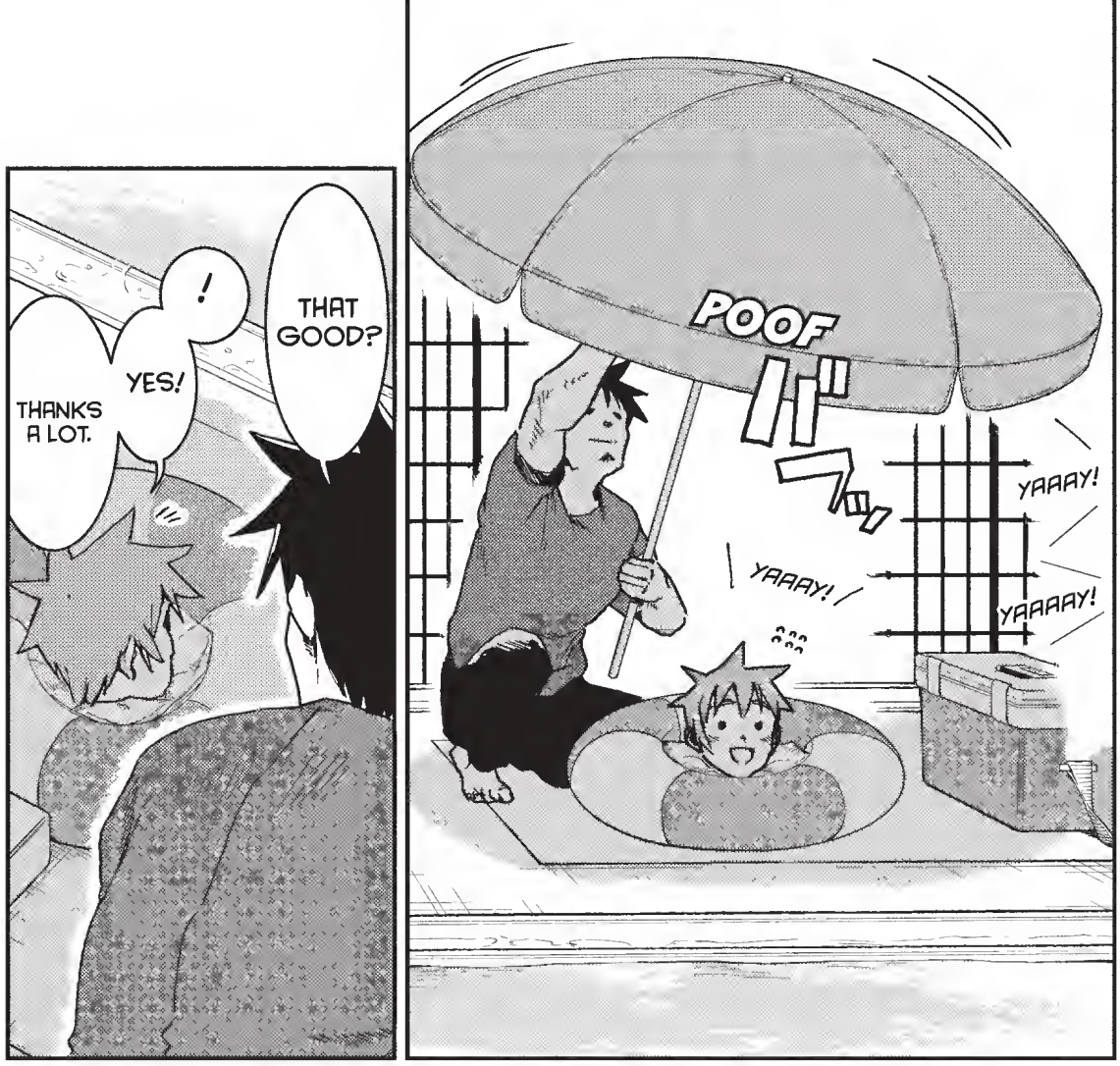
CREAM ...
?
AND I'VE GOT ICE...
I'M BACK.
CLATTER
HEY...
AWFULLY COLD RECEPTION.

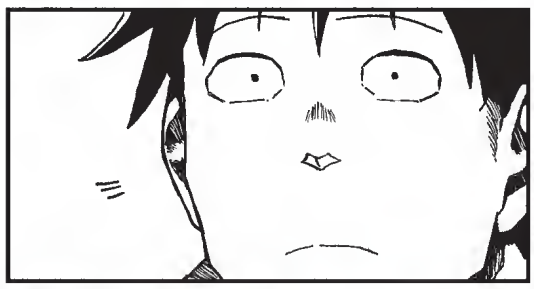

THERE ARE OTHER REASONS I WEAR A VEST.
WIPE WIPE
KINDA GROSS, HUH?
LIKE, I CAN WIPE THE SWEAT OFF MY FACE.

INTERVIEWS WITH MONSTER GIRLS


KA-SPLOOSH
NO DIVING, OKAY?
YAHHOOOO!


SATURDAY - AT THE SCHOOL POOL
SURE, SURE, PERFECTLY CUTE.
YOU LIKE MY SWIMSUIT, SENSEI? IT'S CUTE, HUH?
YAY!
YAY!



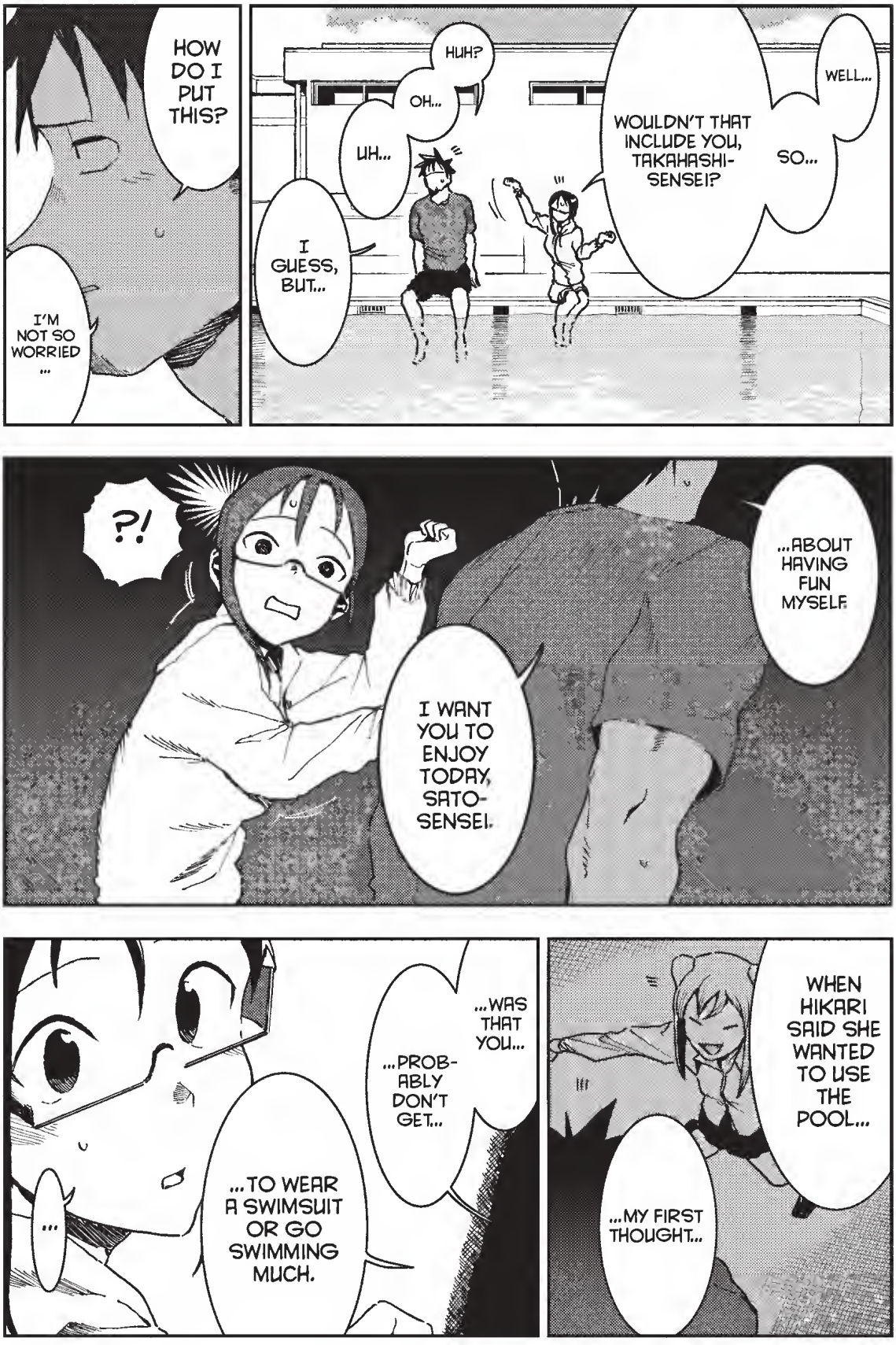


Chapter 33: Demis Want to Swim

THANKS.
HERE'S THE KEYS AND EVERYTHING. YOU CAN TAKE IT FROM HERE.
SURE...
HUH?!
YOU'RE GOING HOME...?
ポス
PLOP
NICE WORK.
YEAH. I THOUGHT YOU GIRLS MIGHT LIKE A DAY TOGETHER AT THE POOL.
IMORI AND KIMURA WILL BE COMING, TOO.
TROT TROT
テキパキ
TROT TROT
テキパキ
OH.
YOU CAN LEAVE THE UMBRELLA AND EVERY-THING IN THE SCIENCE LAB.
UH... RIGHT...
BLAH BLAH
SEE YOU LATER, THEN!
UH...
UHM!

YOU DON'T WANT TO HANG AROUND... JUST A LITTLE LONGER?
SO A DAY AT THE POOL WAS HIKARI-CHAN'S IDEA?
YEAH...
FLIIIIING
だぁぁぁぁぁん

WOO-HOO!
THE SUN'S PRETTY STRONG TODAY...
ARE YOU SURE SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT OUT HERE?
VAMPIRES, Y'KNOW...
...
I THINK ...
...
...SHE'LL BE FINE.
SHE TOLD ME SHE WANTED TO PLAY IN THE POOL WITH EVERYONE.
OH...
REALLY ...?

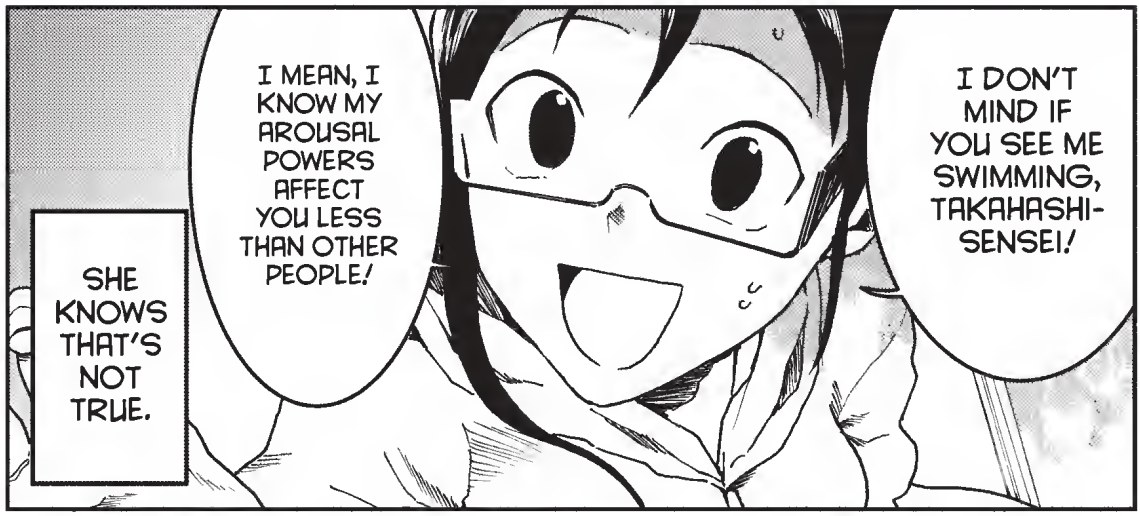

HOW DO I PUT THIS?
I'M NOT SO WORRIED...
HUH?
OH...
UH...
I GUESS, BUT...
WOULDN'T THAT INCLUDE YOU, TAKAHASHI-SENSEI?
WELL...
SO...
?!
I WANT YOU TO ENJOY TODAY, SATO-SENSEI.
...ABOUT HAVING FUN MYSELF.
...
...TO WEAR A SWIMSUIT OR GO SWIMMING MUCH.
...PROB-ABLY DON'T GET...
...WAS THAT YOU...
...MY FIRST THOUGHT...
WHEN HIKARI SAID SHE WANTED TO USE THE POOL...

RIGHT.
SO WITH APOLOGIES TO OUR GUYS, I THOUGHT A GIRLS-ONLY DAY AT THE POOL...
...MIGHT LET YOU SPREAD YOUR WINGS A LITTLE.
...THAT'S TRUE.
THERE ARE ALWAYS PEOPLE AROUND AT THE BEACH OR THE POOL...
...AND AS A SUCCUBUS, I TRY TO AVOID BEING SEEN IN A SWIMSUIT.
I JUST WANTED TO GET EVERYTHING SET UP...
SORRY IF I MADE IT SOUND LIKE WORK EARLIER.
...AND THEN LET YOU BE.
OH!
HARD-LY...
I'M HAPPY!
YOU ARE SO THOUGHT-FUL.
AND NOT ONLY THAT, YOU...
...MADE THIS SPACE FOR ME...
I REALLY...

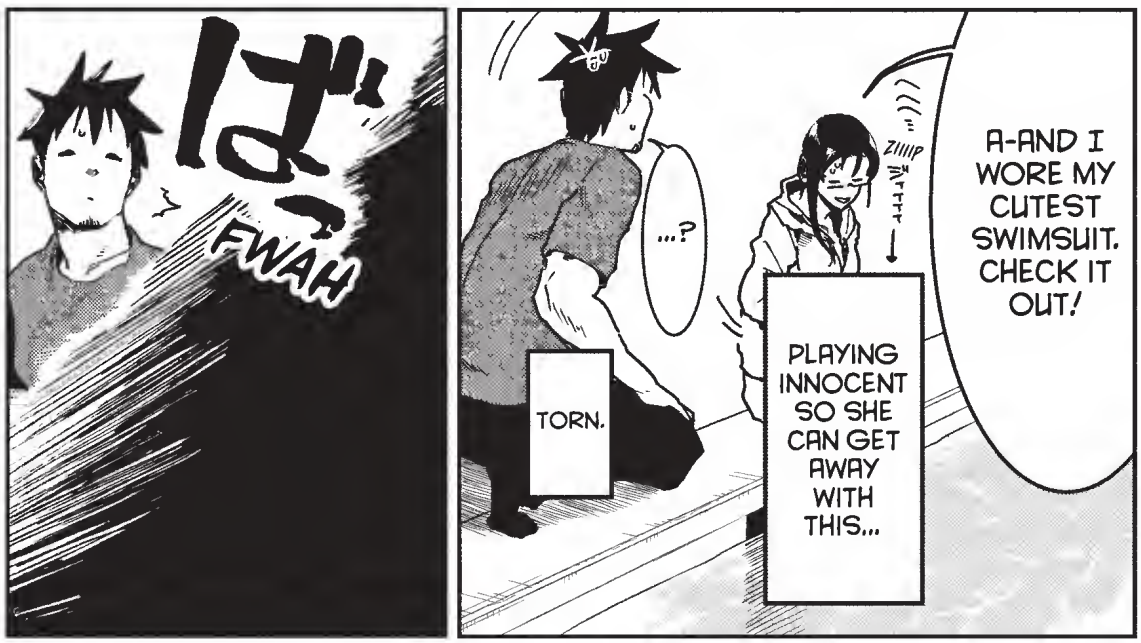
BE AGGRESSIVE! NOW! THE POOL... THE SWIMSUIT... IT'S MY CHANCE TO AROUSE HIM...!
I KNOW IT'S PUSHY, BUT I WANT HIM TO NOTICE ME! THAT'S WHY I'M HERE!

...LIKE YOU.

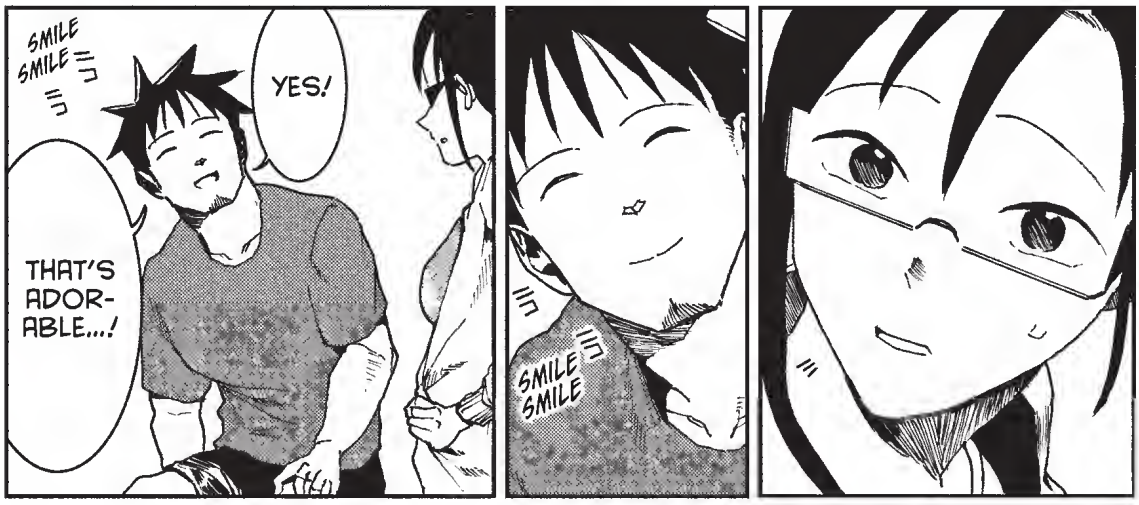
?!!
NO! I THINK YOU'RE FINE HERE!
HAVE FUN AND—
WELL, I'LL EXCUSE MYSELF, THEN.


I DON'T MIND IF YOU SEE ME SWIMMING, TAKAHASHI-SENSEI!
I MEAN, I KNOW MY AROUSAL POWERS AFFECT YOU LESS THAN OTHER PEOPLE!
SHE KNOWS THAT'S NOT TRUE.

HUH?
NO...
MAYBE I...
...
...JUST HAVE A HIGH TOLER-ANCE?
HE CAN'T EXACTLY SAY HE GETS AROUSED LIKE ANYONE ELSE.


A-AND I WORE MY CUTEST SWIMSUIT. CHECK IT OUT!
ZIIIIP
...?
TORN.
PLAYING INNOCENT SO SHE CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS...
ばっ
FWAH

TA-DAAAH!
SOME REVEAL...!


SMILE SMILE
YES!
THAT'S ADOR-ABLE...!
SMILE SMILE

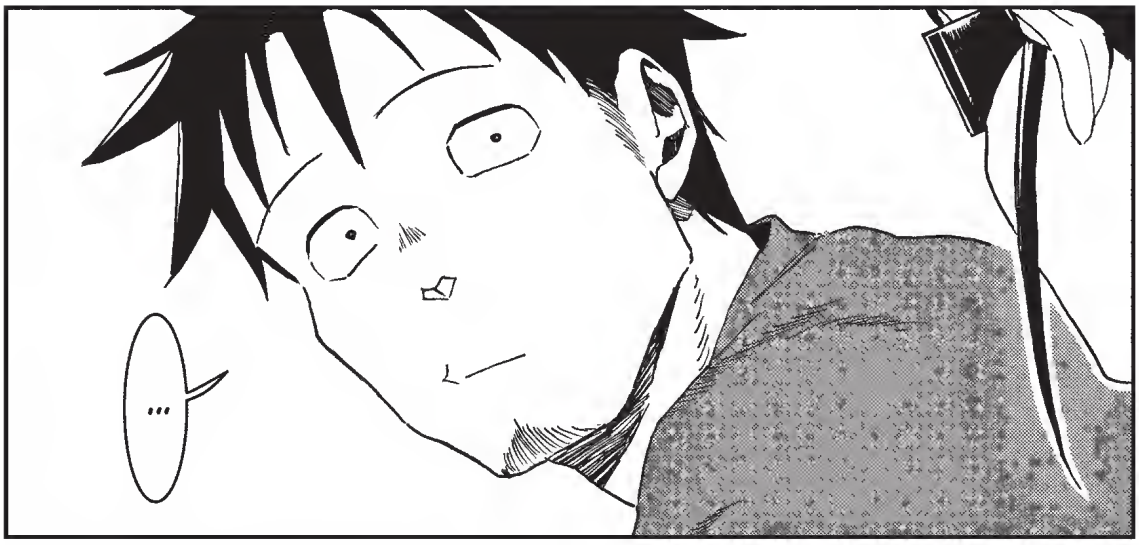
SHE'S SOOOOO HOT...
I'M SOOOOO EMBARRASSED!
IT'S A DRAW.
PAUSE
!
OH, NO... I'M NOT A GOOD SWIMMER.
IT'S GREAT EXERCISE!
T-TAKA-HASHI-SENSEI, DON'T YOU WANT TO SWIM?
GLANCE
HE'S STILL GOT THAT POKER FACE... BUT HE'S GOT TO BE AROUSED!
I HAVE TO KEEP UP MY ATTACK!

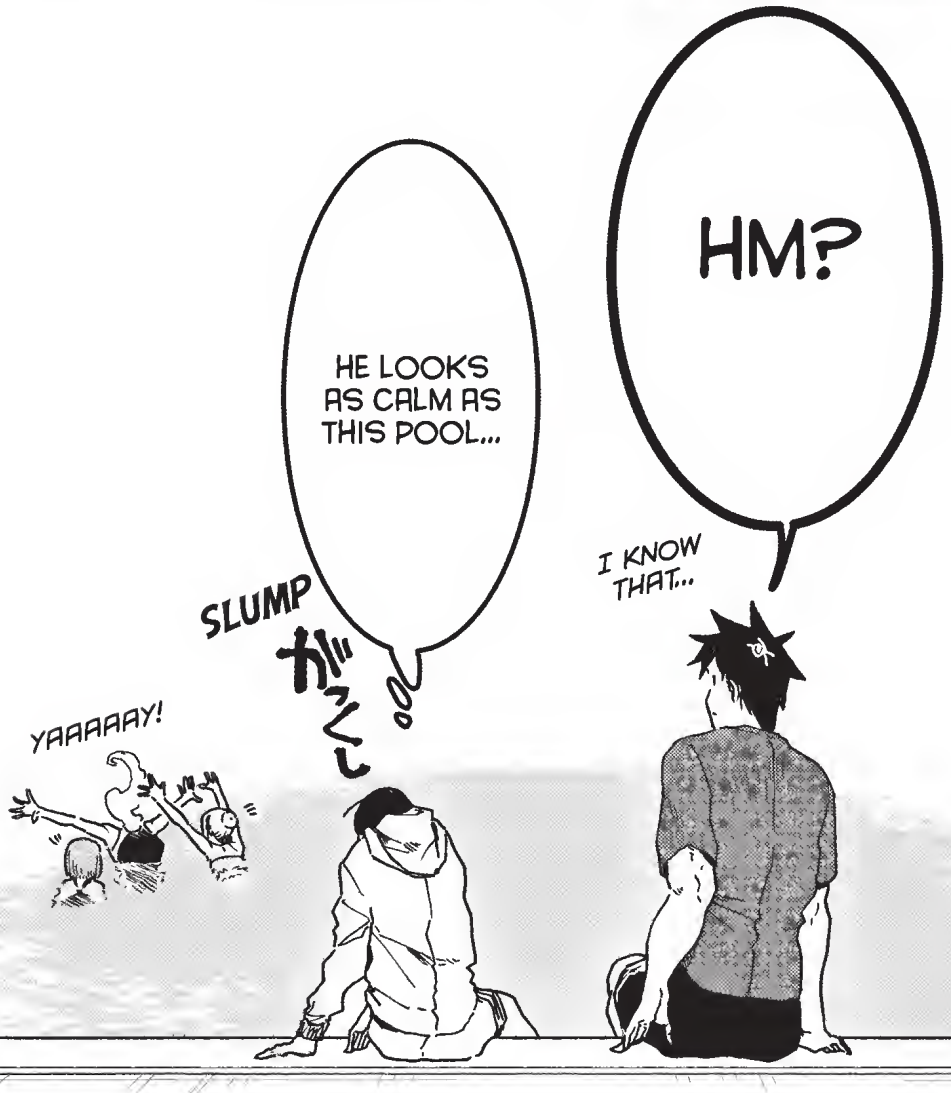
OR SHOULD I SAY...LIKE STEEL?
TETSUO? "STEEL MAN"?
YOU SINK LIKE A STONE, HUH?
COME AGAIN?
JUST KIDDING. HA HA...
A BAD JOKE? WHAT WAS I THINKING?
BLAH
BLAH
...

...
I...I HAVE A CRUSH ON TAKAHASHI-SENSEI...
...
TAKA-HASHI-SENSEI...
IF A STUDENT TOLD YOU THEY HAD A CRUSH ON YOU...
...WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
I'M SORRY?
DARN! TOO SUDDEN.
THERE... THERE WAS A SPECIAL ABOUT THAT ON TV...

...BUT EITHER WAY, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RECIPROCATE.
THESE HIGH-SCHOOLERS ARE STILL KIDS TO ME.
I DON'T THINK ANY STUDENT WOULD BE CRAZY ENOUGH TO HAVE A CRUSH ON ME...
HMM.
...
KIDS I'M TEACHING, NO LESS.
I DON'T FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT THEM.
I COULDN'T.
AND SHOULDN'T.
I'M...
...
...
I SEE...

...NOT ONE OF YOUR STUDENTS...
...
...OR A KID YOU'RE TEACHING, BUT...
チラ
GLANCE

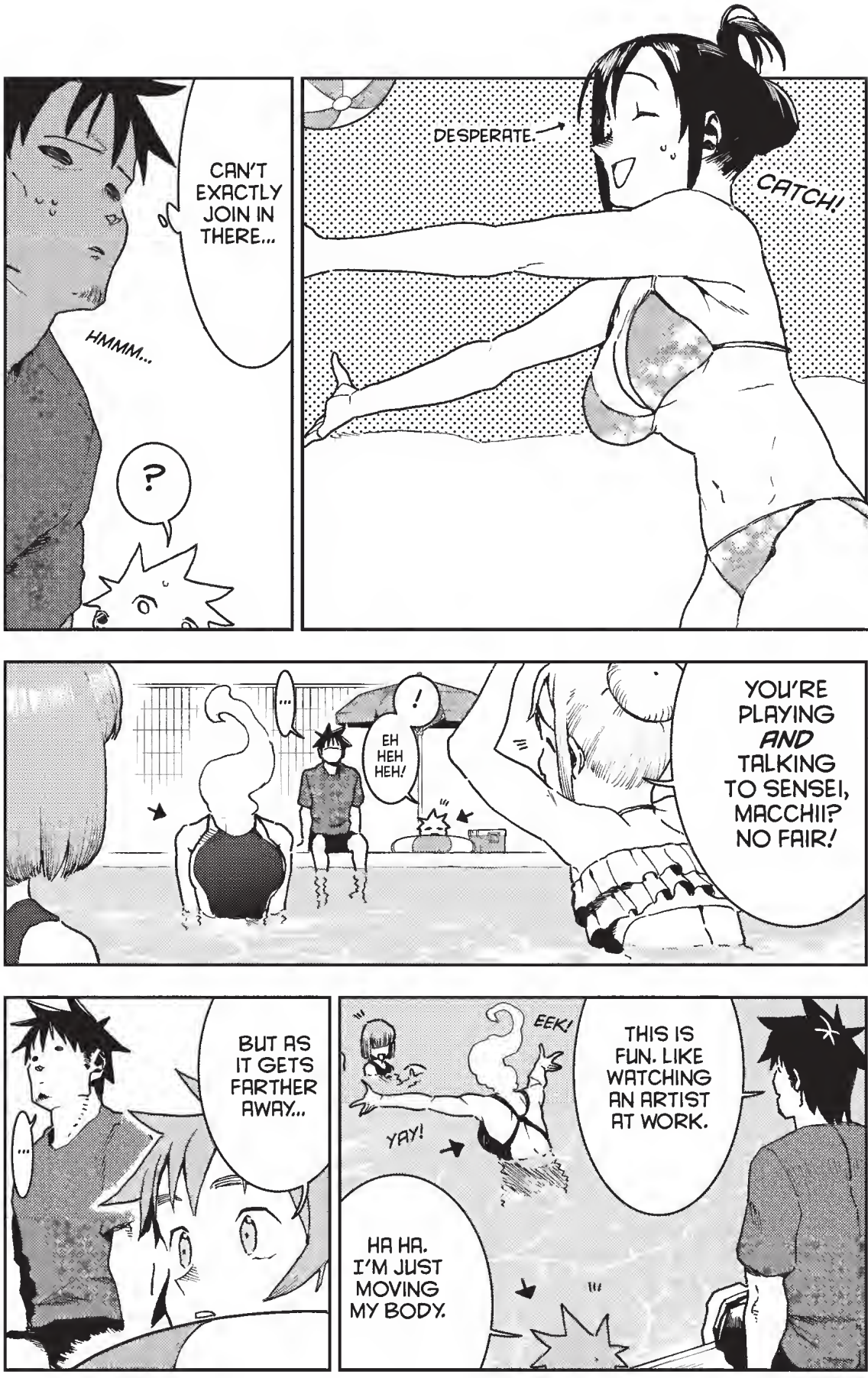

...

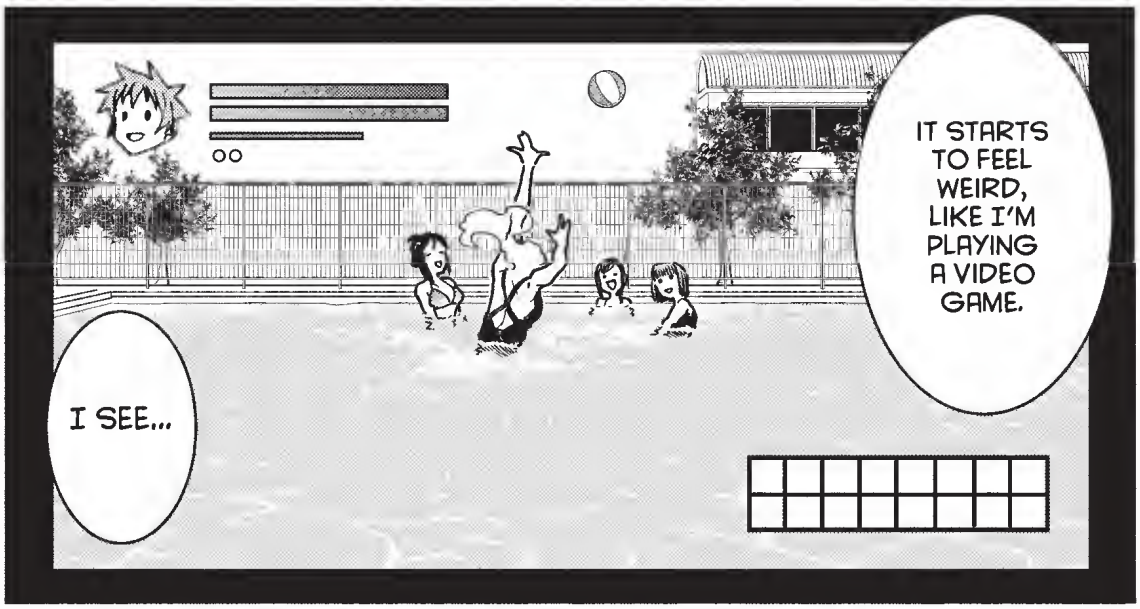

HM?
HE LOOKS AS CALM AS THIS POOL...
SLUMP
がっくし
I KNOW THAT...
YAAAAAY!

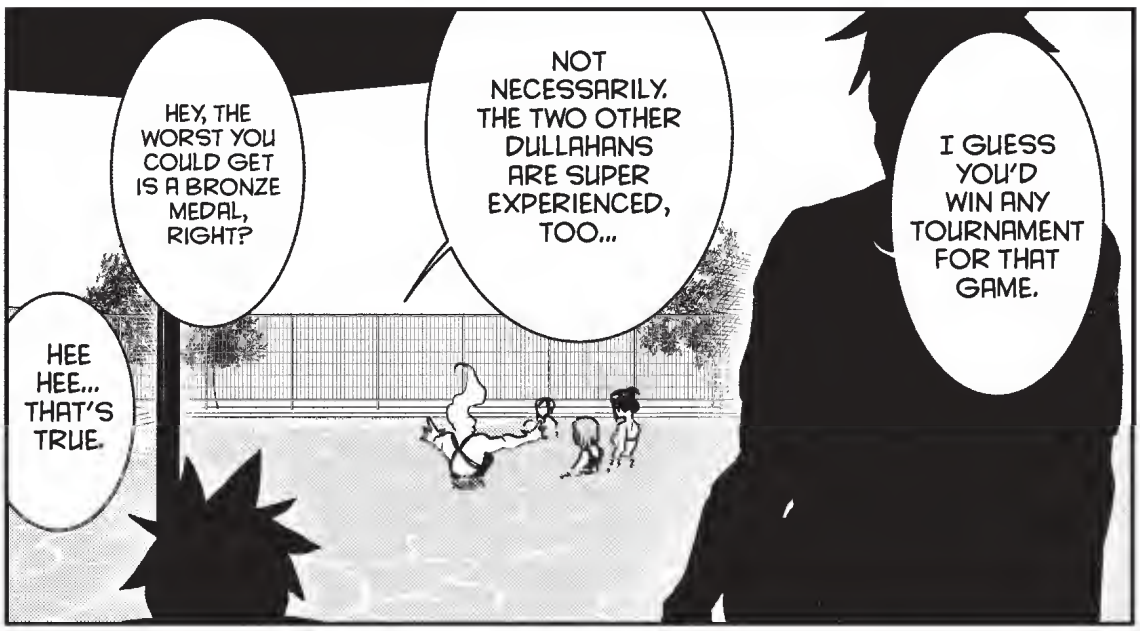
THE GIRLS ARE LEARNING TO RELY ON OTHER PEOPLE.
MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR ME TO BOW OUT.
...
I'LL JUST BE IN THE WAY.
YAY!
YAY!
WELL, I GUESS THEY DON'T COME TO ME AS MUCH AS THEY USED TO...
...
MEH!
A LITTLE LONG-ER...
WON'T HURT ...
!

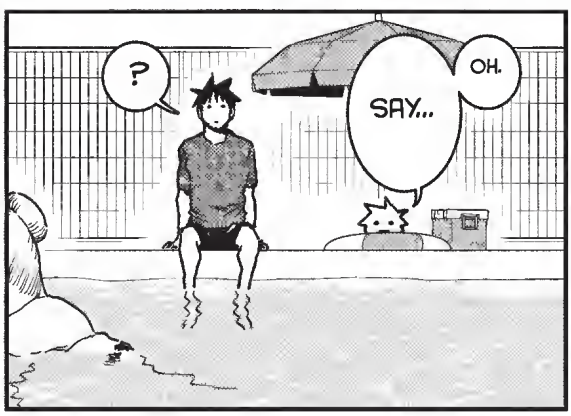
INTERVIEWS WITH MONSTER GIRLS

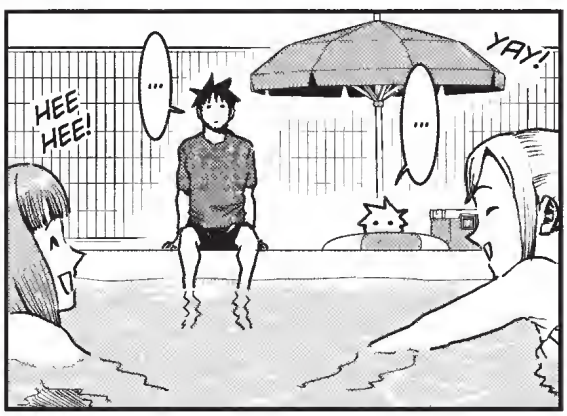
YAAAY!
WOOOH!
HEYO!
HAVING FUN?
HUH?
NOT GOING TO SWIM, SENSEI?
OH...
UH...
OH!
YES!
GOOD TO HEAR.
THANK YOU.
...
WHEE!
WOO-HOO!


CAN'T EXACTLY JOIN IN THERE...
HMMM...
?
DESPERATE
CATCH!
YOU'RE PLAYING AND TALKING TO SENSEI, MACCHII? NO FAIR!
...
!
EH HEH HEH!
BUT AS IT GETS FARTHER AWAY...
...
EEK!
YAY!
THIS IS FUN. LIKE WATCHING AN ARTIST AT WORK.
HA HA. I'M JUST MOVING MY BODY.

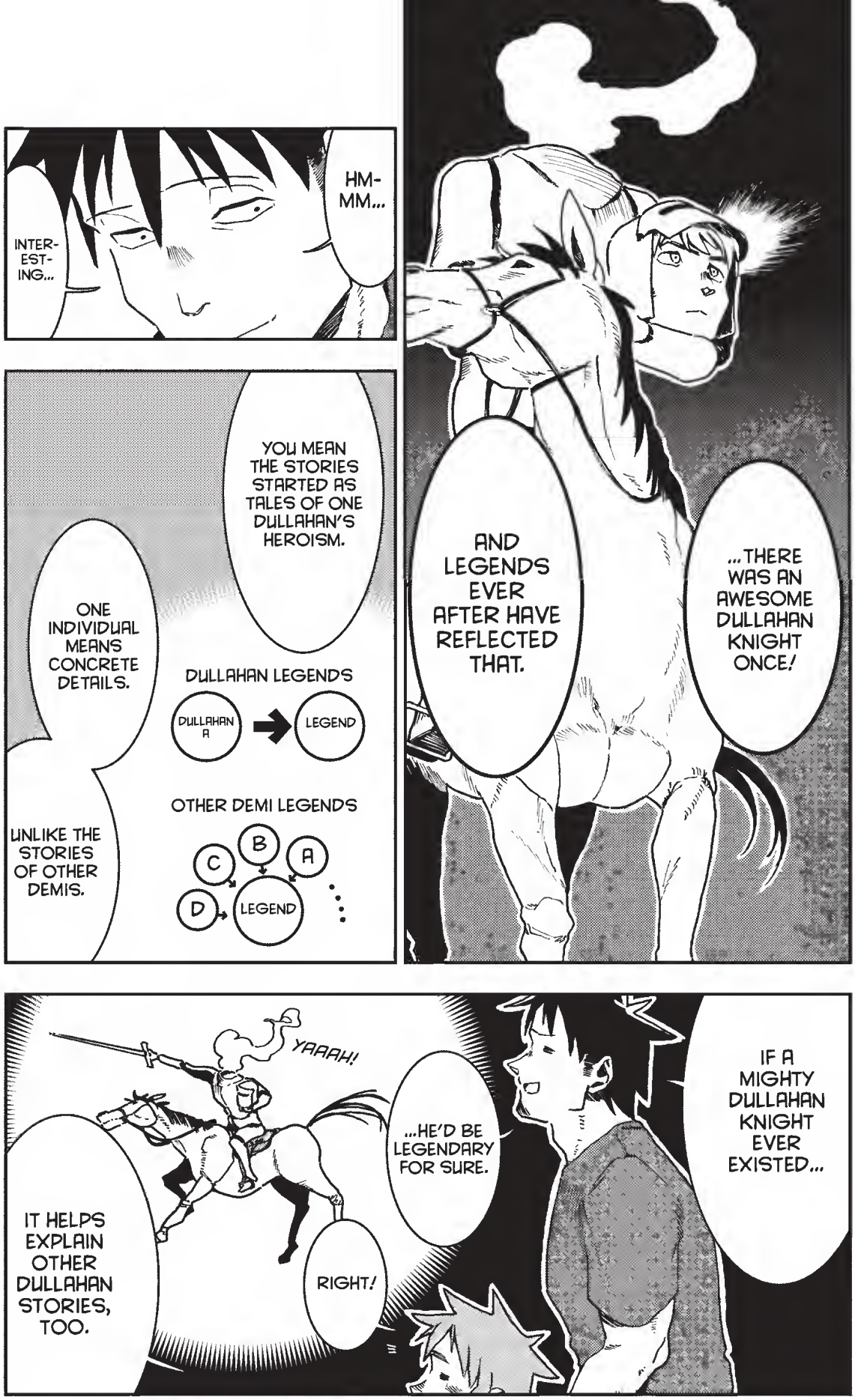

IT STARTS TO FEEL WEIRD, LIKE I'M PLAYING A VIDEO GAME.
I SEE...

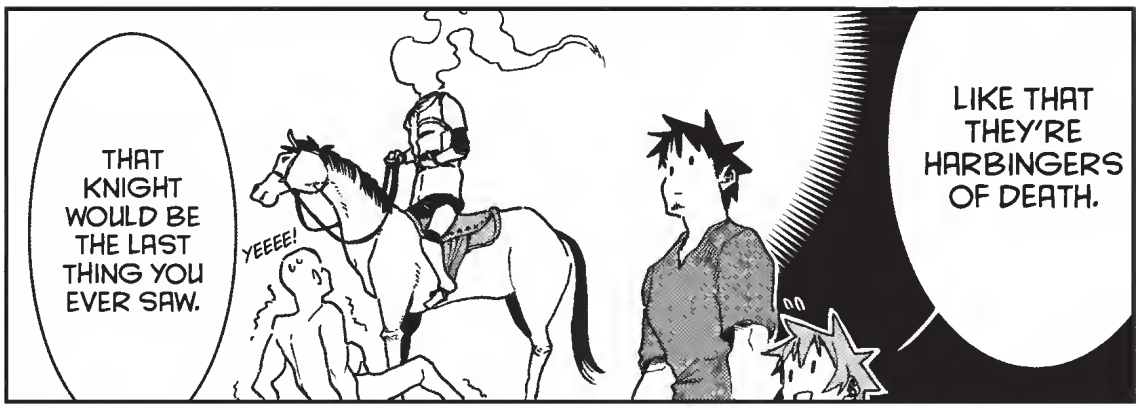

I GUESS YOU'D WIN ANY TOURNAMENT FOR THAT GAME.
NOT NECESSARILY. THE TWO OTHER DULLAHANS ARE SUPER EXPERIENCED, TOO...
HEY, THE WORST YOU COULD GET IS A BRONZE MEDAL, RIGHT?
HEE HEE... THAT'S TRUE.


?
SAY...
OH.

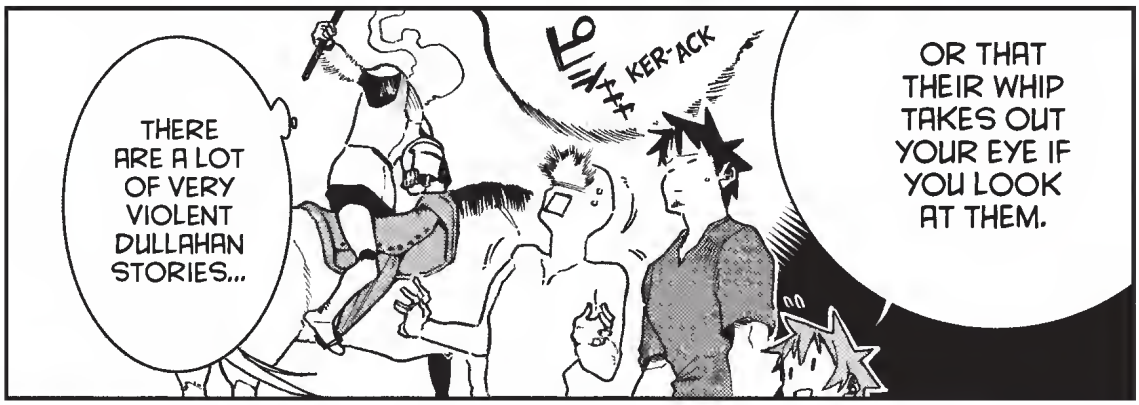

...
HEE HEE!
...
YAY!

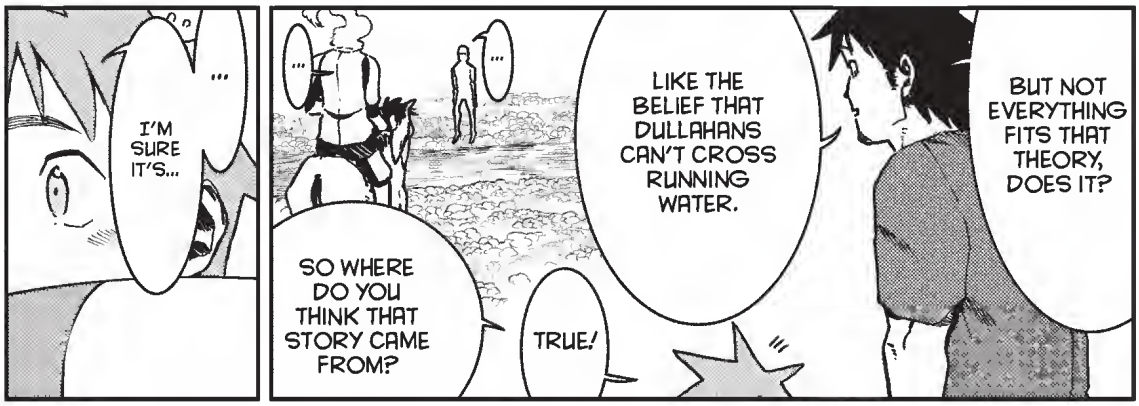
HAVE YOU?
...BEEN THINKING ABOUT DULLAHAN LEGENDS.
I'VE...
SO I WONDERED WHY THEY'RE ALWAYS PICTURED AS KNIGHTS ON HORSE-BACK.
DULLAHANS ARE JUST PEOPLE WHOSE HEADS AND BODIES ARE SEPARATE, RIGHT?
YEAH. AND THEY SEEM KIND OF WEIRD.
SO I HAD A THOUGHT.
MAY-BE...
DEMON?
GHOST?
RIGHT!
IT'S TRUE KNIGHTS AND OTHER HIGH-STATUS CHARACTERS ARE RARE IN DEMI LEGENDS.
HM.


HM-MM...
INTER-EST-ING...
...THERE WAS AN AWESOME DULLAHAN KNIGHT ONCE!
AND LEGENDS EVER AFTER HAVE REFLECTED THAT.
YOU MEAN THE STORIES STARTED AS TALES OF ONE DULLAHAN'S HEROISM.
ONE INDIVIDUAL MEANS CONCRETE DETAILS.
DULLAHAN LEGENDS
DULLAHAN A
LEGEND
OTHER DEMI LEGENDS
A
B
C
D
LEGEND
UNLIKE THE STORIES OF OTHER DEMIS.
IF A MIGHTY DULLAHAN KNIGHT EVER EXISTED...
...HE'D BE LEGENDARY FOR SURE.
YAAAH!
RIGHT!
IT HELPS EXPLAIN OTHER DULLAHAN STORIES, TOO.


THAT KNIGHT WOULD BE THE LAST THING YOU EVER SAW.
YEEEE!
LIKE THAT THEY'RE HARBINGERS OF DEATH.

IT MUST'VE SEEMED THAT WAY TO ON-LOOKERS...
OR, IF YOU OPEN YOUR DOOR TO ONE, YOU WILL BE BATHED IN BLOOD.

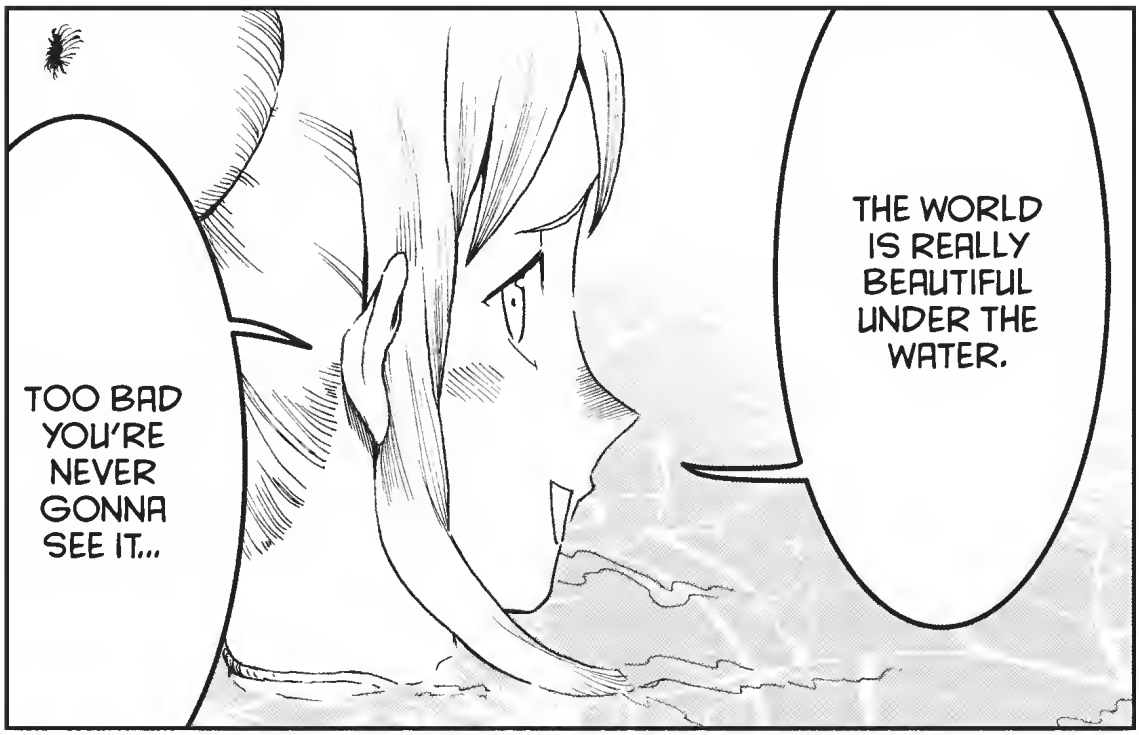

THERE ARE A LOT OF VERY VIOLENT DULLAHAN STORIES...
KER-ACK
OR THAT THEIR WHIP TAKES OUT YOUR EYE IF YOU LOOK AT THEM.

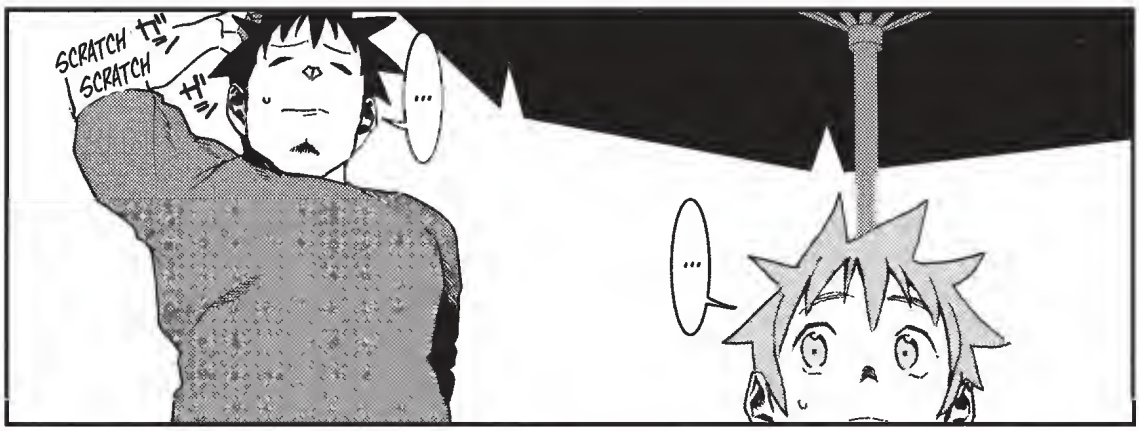

...
I'M SURE IT'S...
...
...
SO WHERE DO YOU THINK THAT STORY CAME FROM?
TRUE!
LIKE THE BELIEF THAT DULLAHANS CAN'T CROSS RUNNING WATER.
BUT NOT EVERYTHING FITS THAT THEORY, DOES IT?

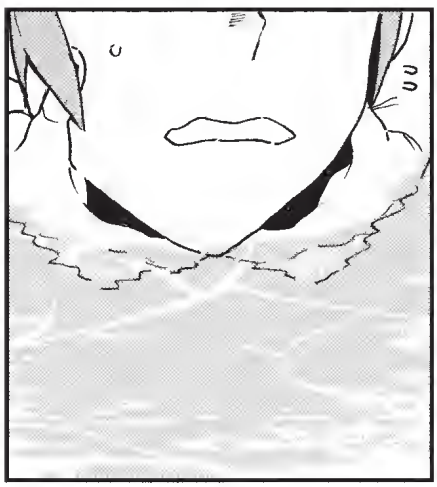
...
...THE SAME REASON I'M AT THE POOLSIDE TODAY.
YAY!
YIPPEE!
RIGHT...
A POOL IS DANGEROUS ENOUGH.
SLIP
ツルッ
BUT IN A RUNNING RIVER...
わた
FLAIL
わた
FLAIL
わた
FLAIL
GLUB
ゴボ
GLUB
ゴボ
YEAH...
...IF HE DROPPED HIS HEAD IN A RIVER.
I SHIVER TO THINK WHAT WOULD HAPPEN...

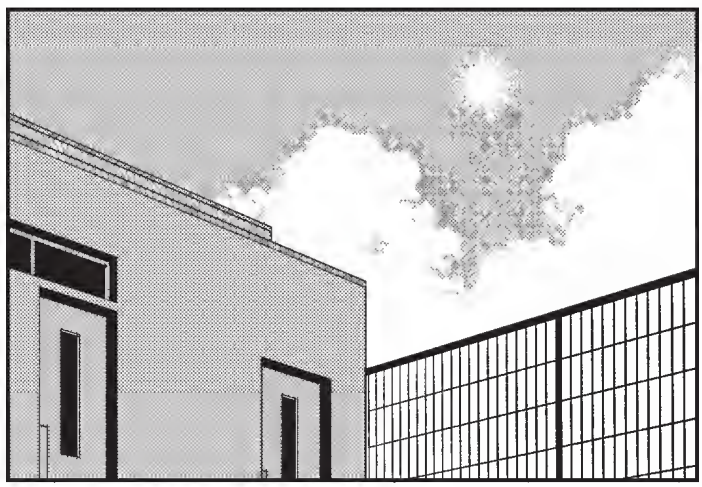
THAT'D BE IT.
...
GONE FOR GOOD.
NOOO OO GLUB GLUB
FSSSSSSH
...
IN ALL THE OTHER STORIES...
HA HA HA!
I LIKE THAT STORY BECAUSE IT FEELS SO FAMILIAR.
...WE SOUND LIKE THE GRIM REAPER OR SOMETHING.
EVEN A DULLAHAN HERO...
...WOULDN'T RISK CHASING AN ENEMY ACROSS A RIVER, HUH?
MACCHI!!!
...
MACHI? THE GRIM REAPER? I JUST CAN'T PICTURE IT...
WAS THAT LONG-AGO KNIGHT REALLY SO AWFUL...?

YOU'RE SO BUSY TALKING, YOUR BODY STOPPED MOVING!
HA HA HA! MY BAD?
SORRY.
STIIIILL
GLUB ゴポ
GLUB ゴポ
OH, AND! AND!
I KINDA HEARD WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT...
BUT DO YOU MEAN YOU'VE NEVER BEEN IN A POOL, MACCHII?!
IN A...
YOU MEAN MY HEAD, RIGHT?
YEAH! RIGHT!
NO, I HAVEN'T...
THOUGHT NOT!
YOU'RE MISSING OUT!
TO-TALLY!


THE WORLD IS REALLY BEAUTIFUL UNDER THE WATER.
TOO BAD YOU'RE NEVER GONNA SEE IT...


SCRATCH
SCRATCH
...
...

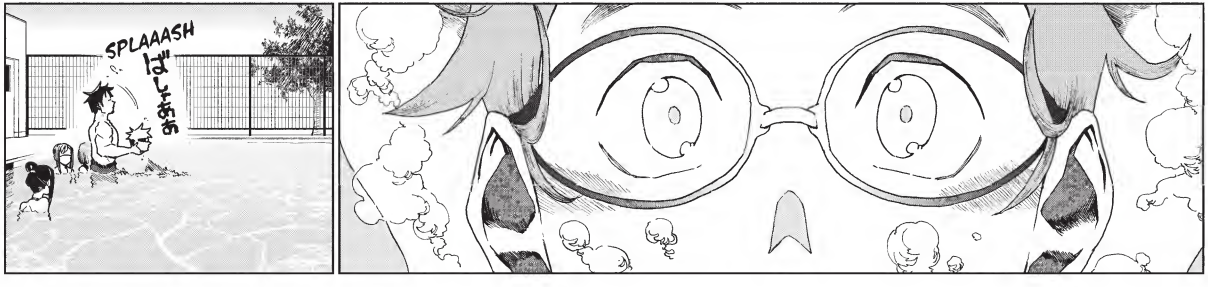




WHAT'S TAKAHASHI-SENSEI DOING?
EEK... I'M DEFINITELY PRETTY NERVOUS...
HUH?
HE'S CALLING MACCHII'S DAD TO GET PER-MISSION.
IT'S IMPOR-TANT.
HMMM?
HMPH. DO I REALLY NEED PERMISSION JUST TO GET A LITTLE WET?
SO EMBARRASS-ING!

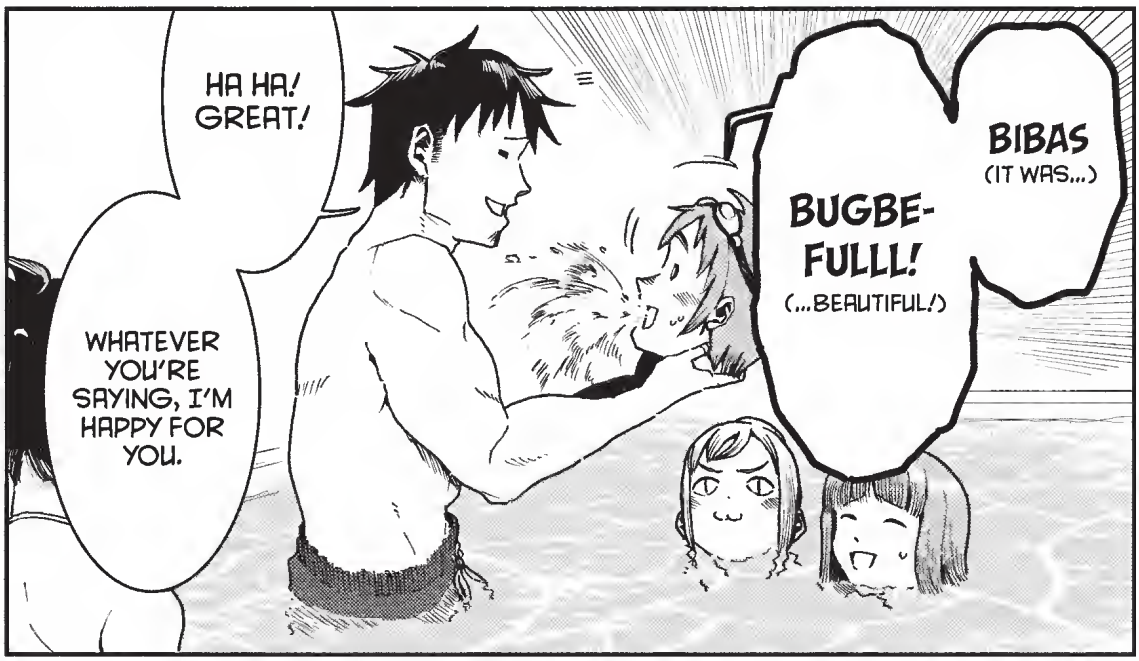
FLOAT
FLOAT
EVEN IF YOU'RE SURE THEY'LL SAY YES...
...IT'S IMPORTANT TO LET THEM KNOW.
ARE YOU PLAYING DULLAHAN, SAKKI!?
ERK...
I... I'M KIND OF EMBARRASSED ABOUT MY SWIMSUIT...
FLOAT
WE'RE GOOD TO GO!
EEP!
THANKS FOR WAITING!

ONE—
TWO—
OKAY, HERE GOES!
SPLOOSH
ドプン

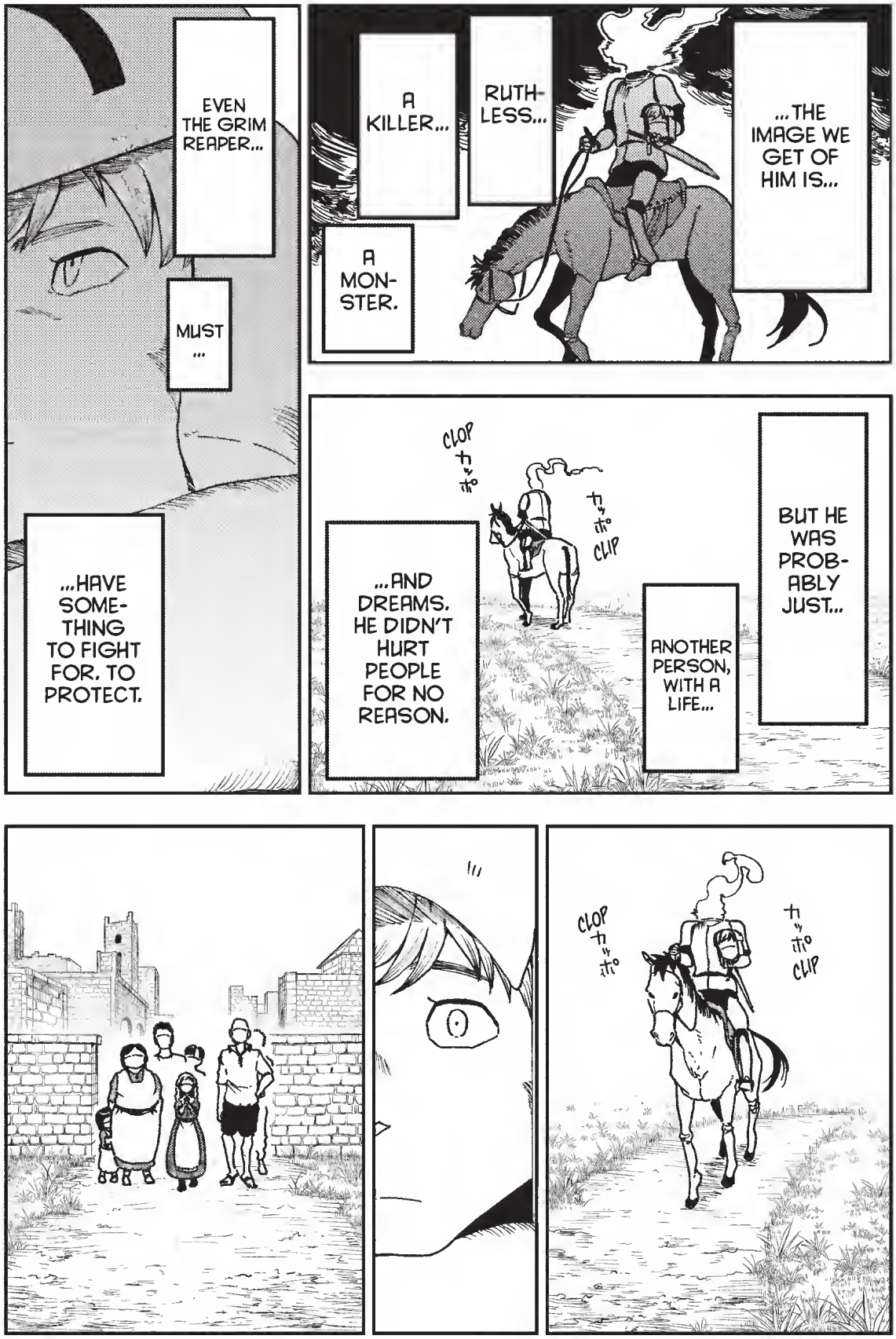

SPLAAASH
ばしゃあ

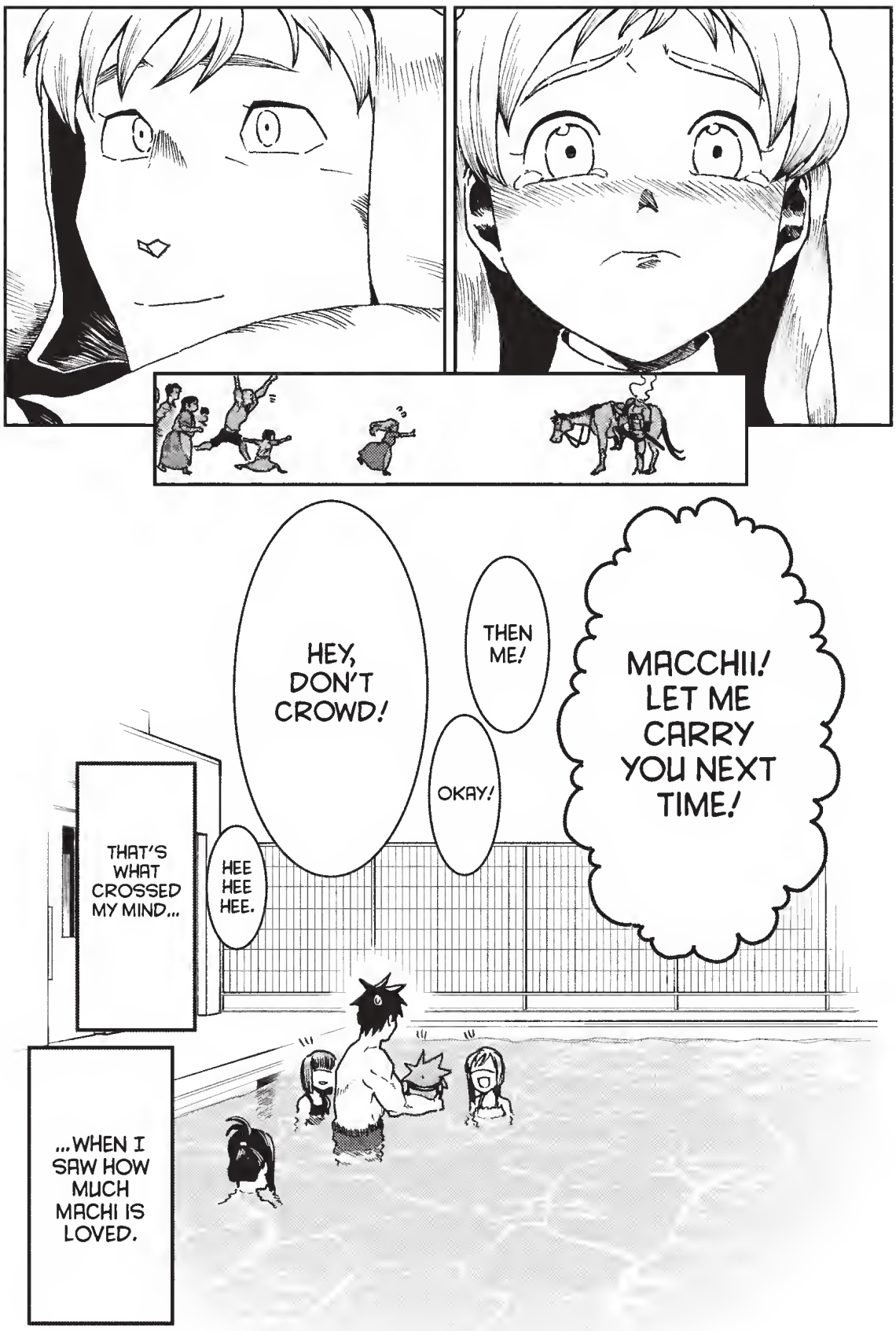
...

HOW WAS IT?
COULD YOU SEE ALL RIGHT?


HA HA! GREAT!
WHATEVER YOU'RE SAYING, I'M HAPPY FOR YOU.
BUGBE-FULLL! (...BEAUTIFUL!)
BIBAS (IT WAS...)

...AND ALL DULLAHAN STORIES SPRING FROM A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL...
IF MACHI IS RIGHT...

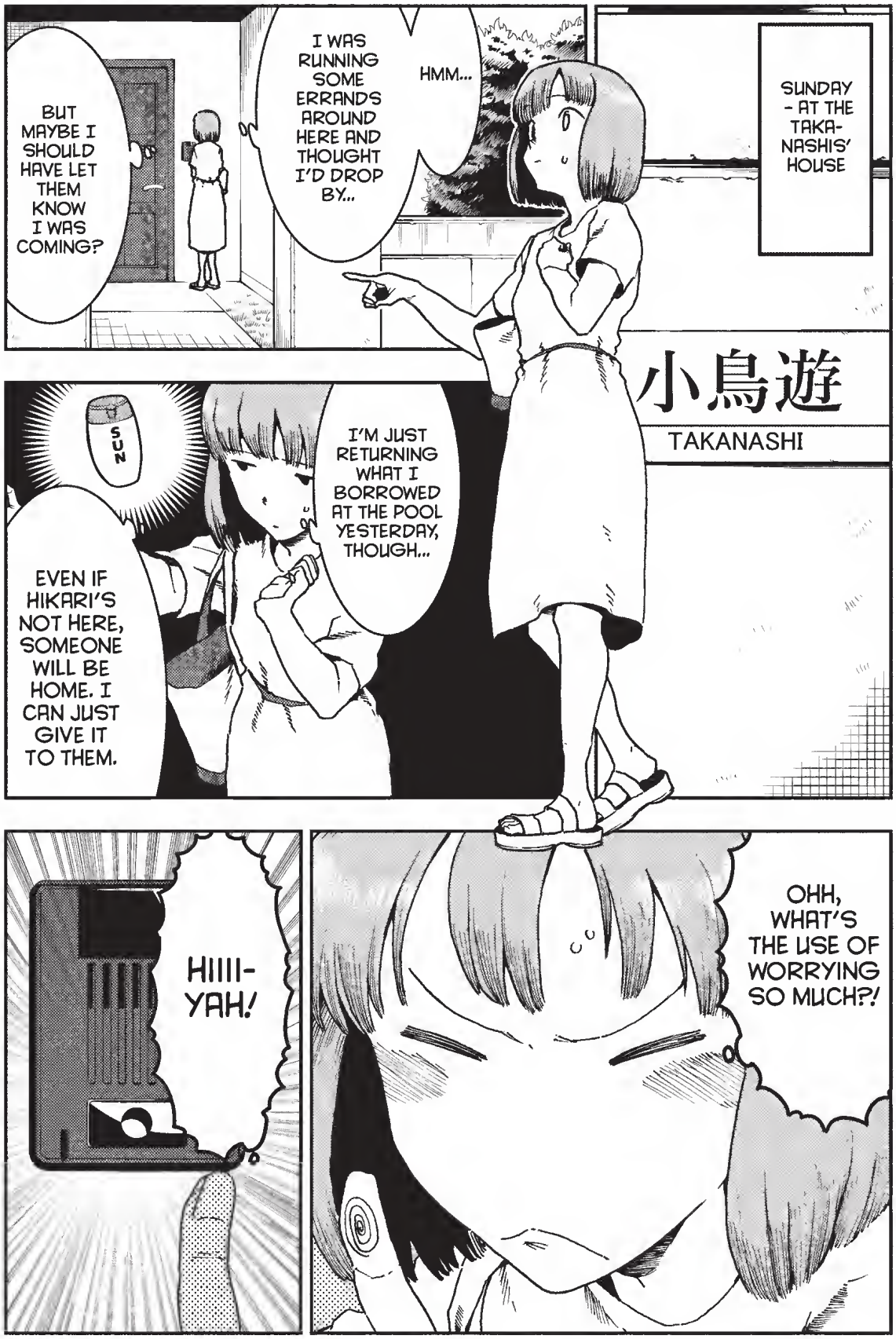

EVEN THE GRIM REAPER...
MUST ...
...HAVE SOMETHING TO FIGHT FOR. TO PROTECT.
A KILLER...
RUTHLESS...
A MONSTER.
...THE IMAGE WE GET OF HIM IS...
CLOP カッポ
カッポ CLIP
...AND DREAMS. HE DIDN'T HURT PEOPLE FOR NO REASON.
ANOTHER PERSON, WITH A LIFE...
BUT HE WAS PROBABLY JUST...
CLOP カッポ
カッポ CLIP


MACCHII! LET ME CARRY YOU NEXT TIME!
THEN ME!
HEY, DON'T CROWD!
OKAY!
HEE HEE HEE.
THAT'S WHAT CROSSED MY MIND...
...WHEN I SAW HOW MUCH MACHI IS LOVED.

WHO STARTED THE DULLAHAN STORIES?
JUDGING BY ALL THE FEAR IN THEM...
...IT MUST HAVE BEEN HIS ENEMIES.
THE VICTORS WRITE HISTORY.
AND THAT DULLAHAN ISN'T REMEMBERED AS A HERO.
AND ...
THAT
MEANS ...
...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SENSEI?
CAN'T STAND TO SEE US PLAYING IN THE POOL?
THOUGHTS OF LOST YOUTH?
C'MON, NOW, HE'S NOT *THAT* OLD...

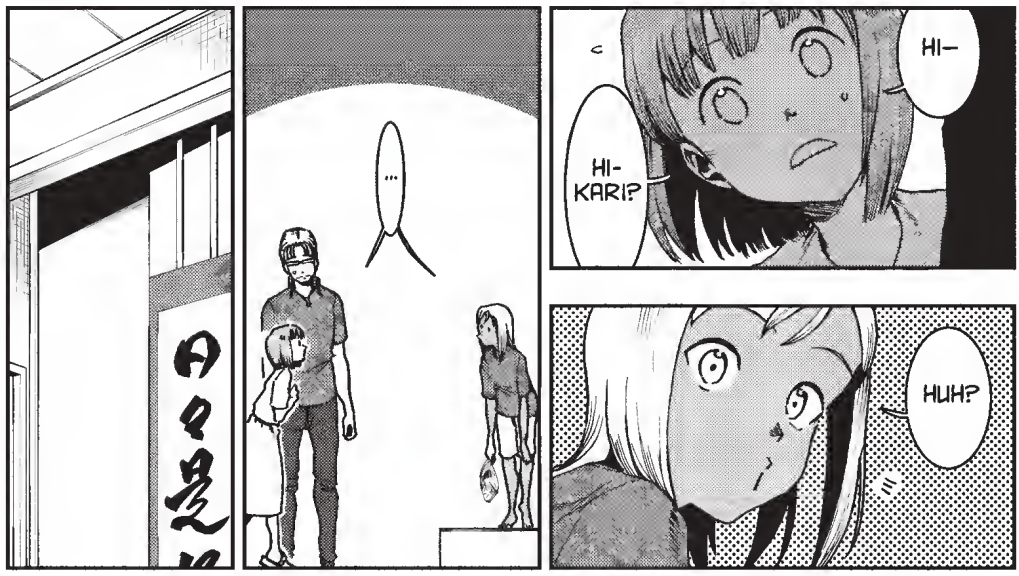
INTERVIEWS WITH MONSTER GIRLS

Chapter 35: Takanashi Talk

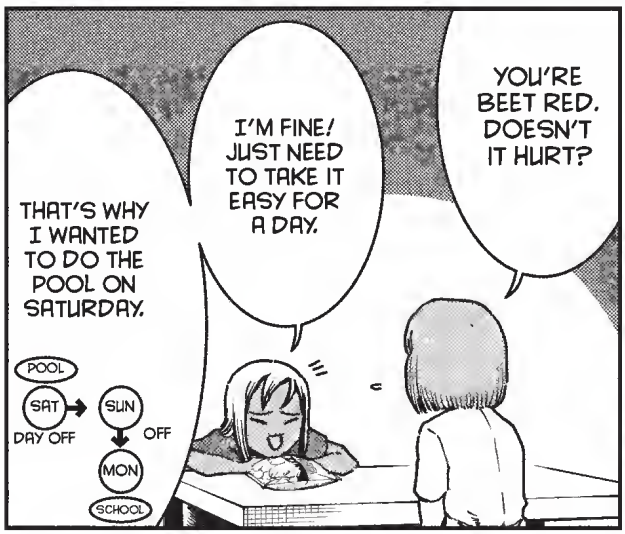

SUNDAY - AT THE TAKANASHIS' HOUSE
小鳥遊
TAKANASHI
HMM...
I WAS RUNNING SOME ERRANDS AROUND HERE AND THOUGHT I'D DROP BY...
BUT MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE LET THEM KNOW I WAS COMING?
I'M JUST RETURNING WHAT I BORROWED AT THE POOL YESTERDAY, THOUGH...
SUN
EVEN IF HIKARI'S NOT HERE, SOMEONE WILL BE HOME. I CAN JUST GIVE IT TO THEM.
OHH, WHAT'S THE USE OF WORRYING SO MUCH?!
HIIII-YAH!

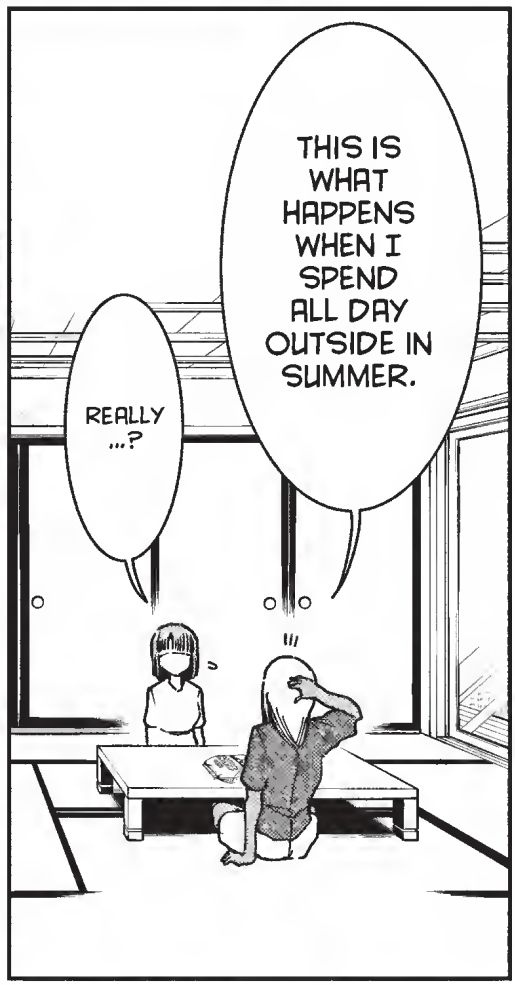
SHOCK
YIPES!
I'M OFF TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE, THEN.
OKAY!
ガチャ CLICK
HUH?!
OH.
YUKI-CHAN.
HELLO.
WHAT'S UP?
HIMARIIIII!
BUT I'M AFRAID HIKARI ISN'T...
?
I SEE! THANK YOU—
COMING BY DESPITE THE HEAT.
I... I BORROWED SOME SUNSCREEN FROM HIKARI YESTERDAY, AND...
H-HELLO...

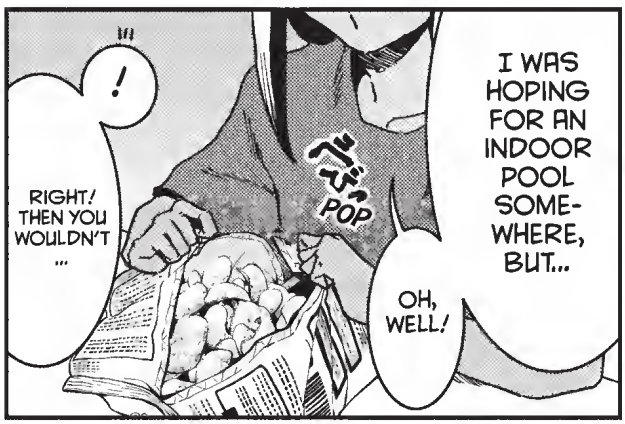
VWOOP
ぬっ
LET'S TRADE POTATO CHIPS!
I WANT CONSOMMÉ FLAVOR!
NUH-UH!
ぎょっ
YEEK
?!?!

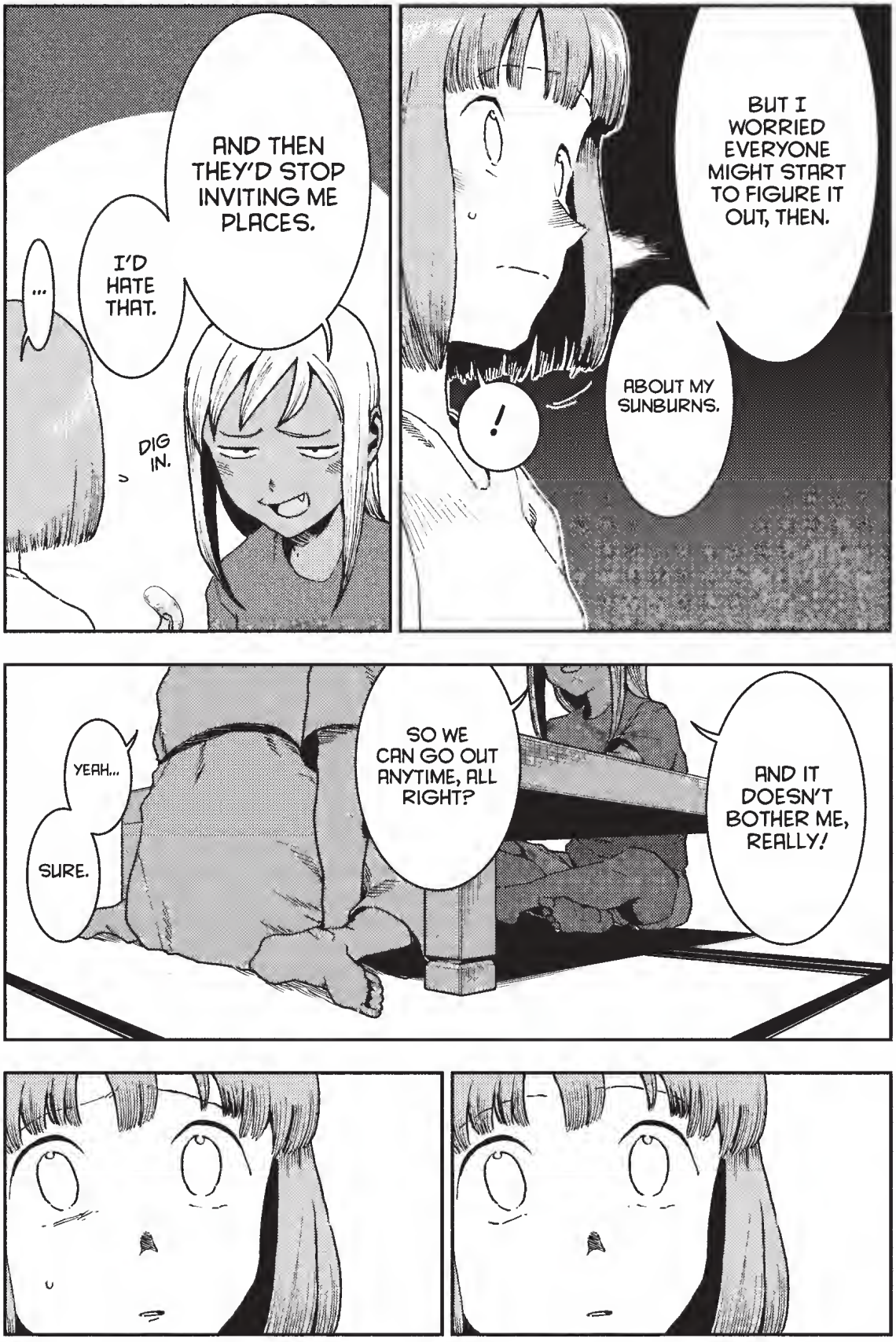

...
HI—
HI-KARI?
HUH?

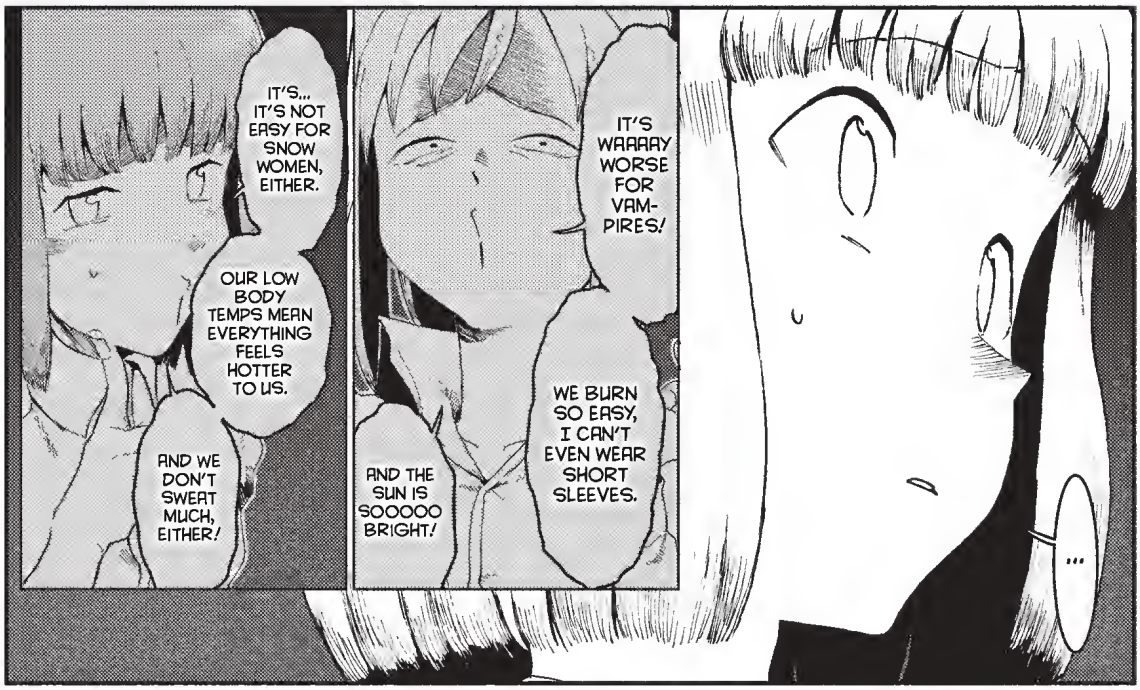
HA HA HA...!
GUESS YOU FOUND ME OUT!


YOU'RE BEET RED. DOESN'T IT HURT?
I'M FINE! JUST NEED TO TAKE IT EASY FOR A DAY.
THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO DO THE POOL ON SATURDAY.
POOL
SAT
SUN
OFF
DAY OFF
MON
SCHOOL

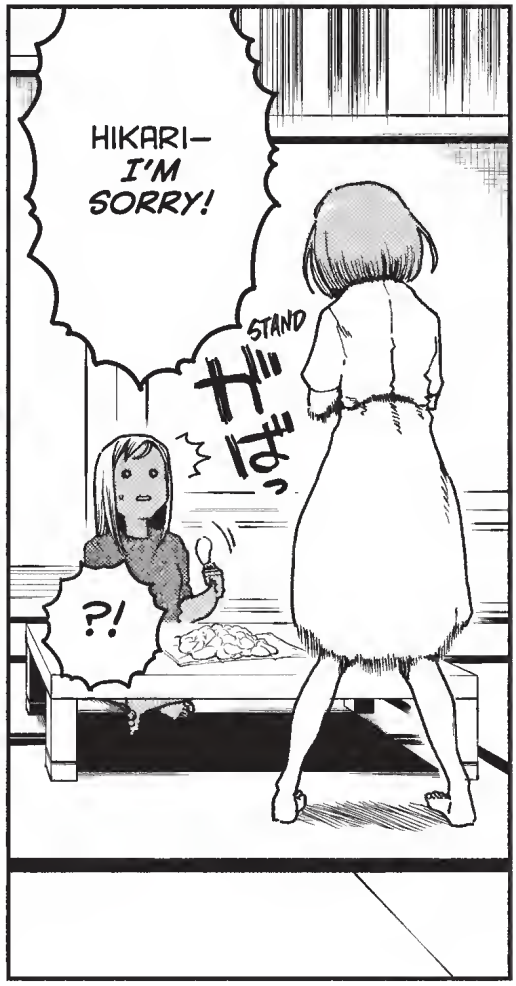

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I SPEND ALL DAY OUTSIDE IN SUMMER.
REALLY ...?

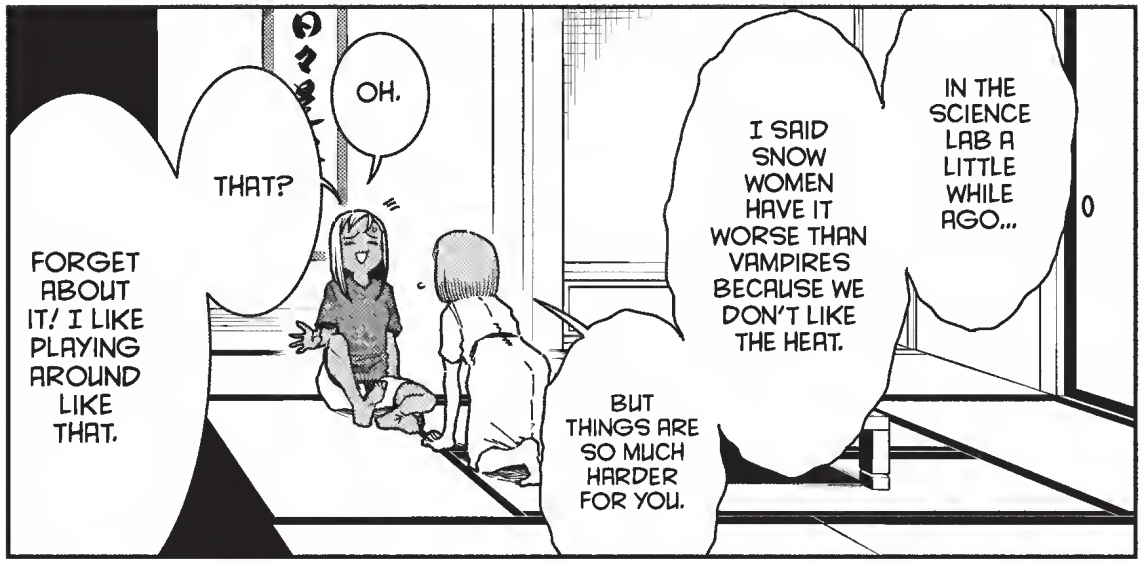

I WAS HOPING FOR AN INDOOR POOL SOME-WHERE, BUT...
OH, WELL!
ゴソゴソ
POP
!
RIGHT! THEN YOU WOULDN'T ...

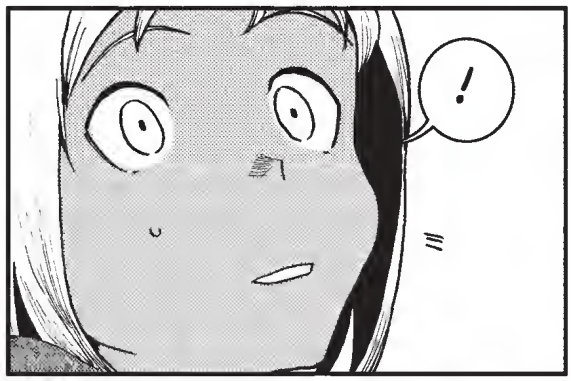

AND THEN THEY'D STOP INVITING ME PLACES.
I'D HATE THAT.
...
DIG IN.
BUT I WORRIED EVERYONE MIGHT START TO FIGURE IT OUT, THEN.
!
ABOUT MY SUNBURNS.
YEAH...
SURE.
SO WE CAN GO OUT ANYTIME, ALL RIGHT?
AND IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME, REALLY!


IT'S... IT'S NOT EASY FOR SNOW WOMEN, EITHER.
OUR LOW BODY TEMPS MEAN EVERYTHING FEELS HOTTER TO US.
AND WE DON'T SWEAT MUCH, EITHER!
IT'S WAAAAY WORSE FOR VAM-PIRES!
WE BURN SO EASY, I CAN'T EVEN WEAR SHORT SLEEVES.
AND THE SUN IS SOOOOO BRIGHT!
...

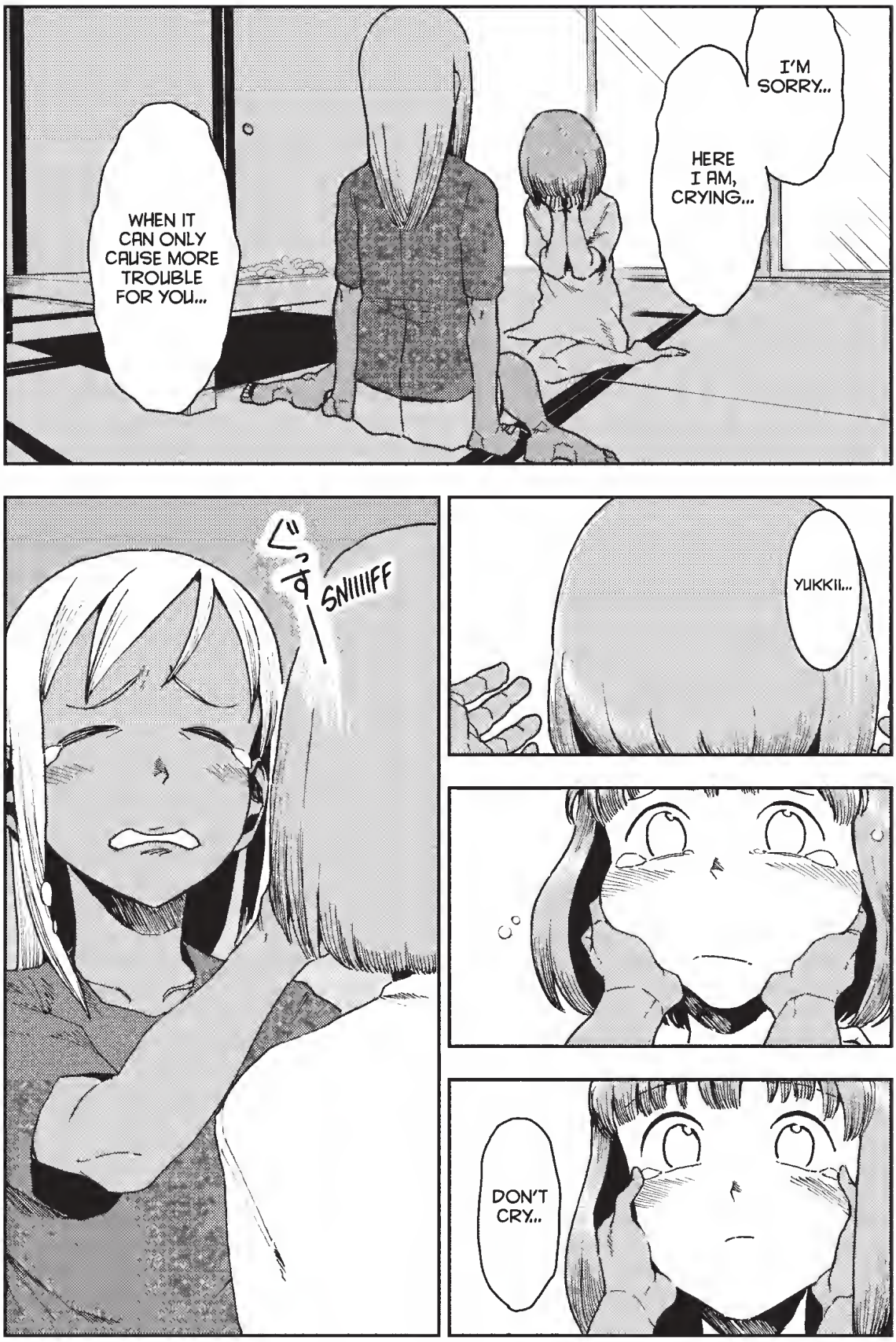
I TEASED YOU...
...EVEN THOUGH I HAD NO IDEA WHAT YOU WERE GOING THROUGH...
?
HA HA... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


HIKARI— I'M SORRY!
STAND
ガばっ
?!


IN THE SCIENCE LAB A LITTLE WHILE AGO...
I SAID SNOW WOMEN HAVE IT WORSE THAN VAMPIRES BECAUSE WE DON'T LIKE THE HEAT.
BUT THINGS ARE SO MUCH HARDER FOR YOU.
OH.
THAT?
FORGET ABOUT IT! I LIKE PLAYING AROUND LIKE THAT.


!

YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG, YUKKI!
I'M SURE IT'S HARD FOR SNOW—
AH HA HA!

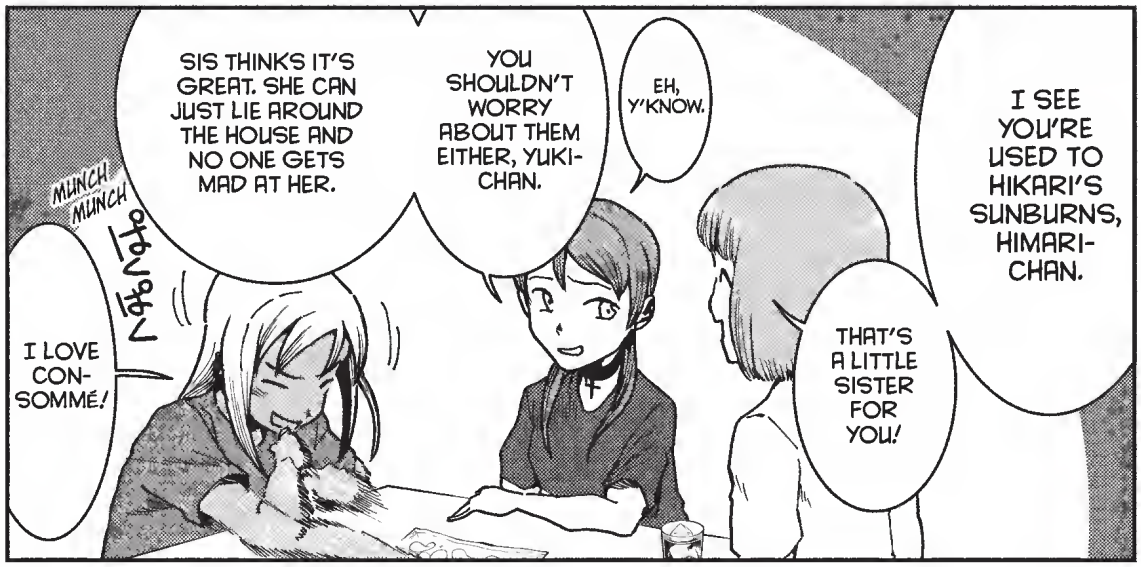

I'M SORRY...
HERE I AM, CRYING...
WHEN IT CAN ONLY CAUSE MORE TROUBLE FOR YOU...
じっ
SNIIIIFF
YUKKII...
DON'T CRY...

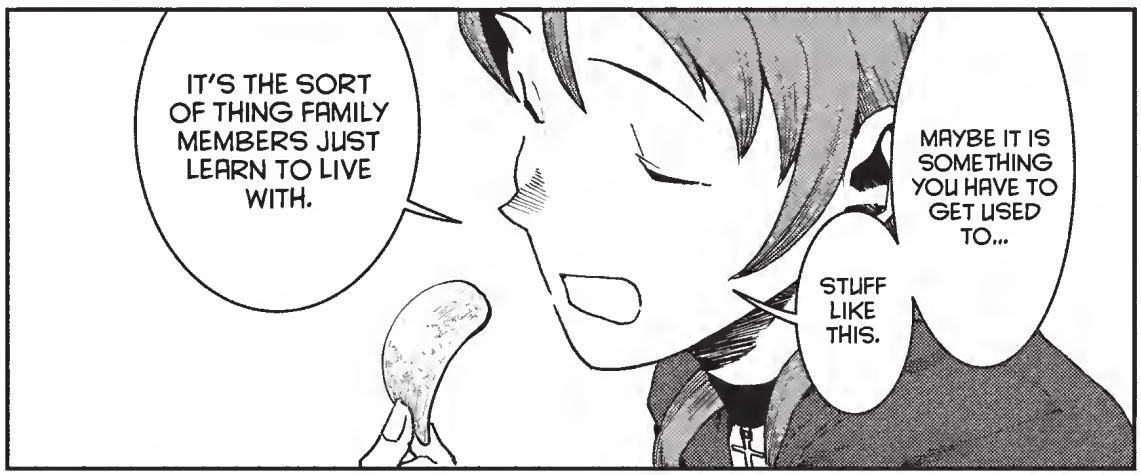
ERK!
HRRG...
HUG
...BECAUSE THEN I'LL START, TOOOOO!
WAAAAH!
SNIFF
SNIFF
YIKES!
CRASH
VWIP

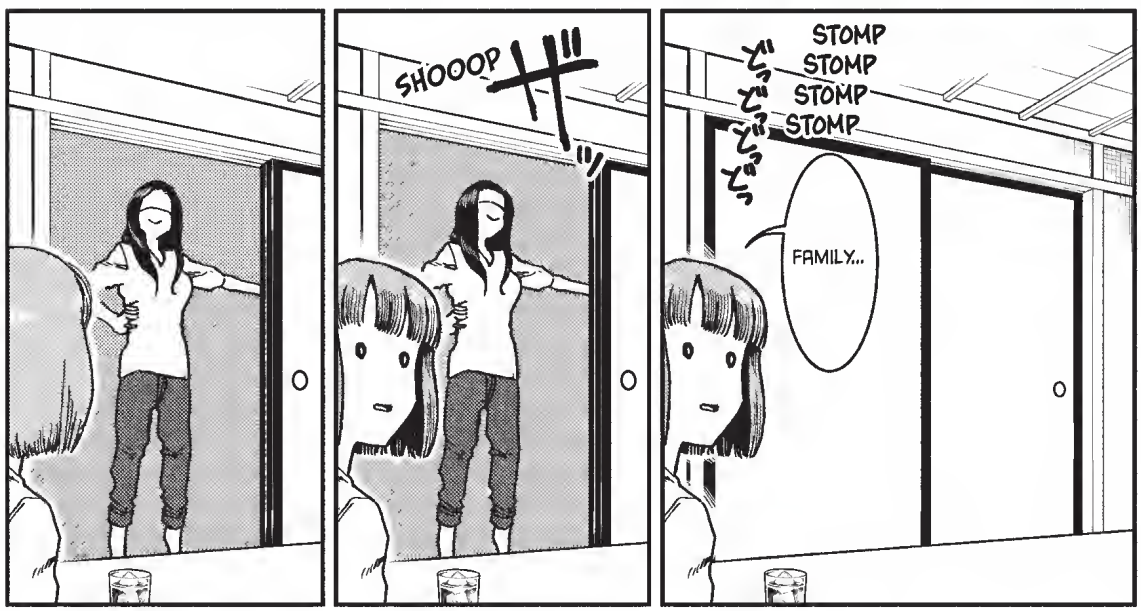
DIDN'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT.
WAIT, HIMARI-CHAN! COME BACK!
IT'S NOT—!
SFF
YEAH! IT WAS AN ACCI-DENT...
WAIT A SECOND! YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU!

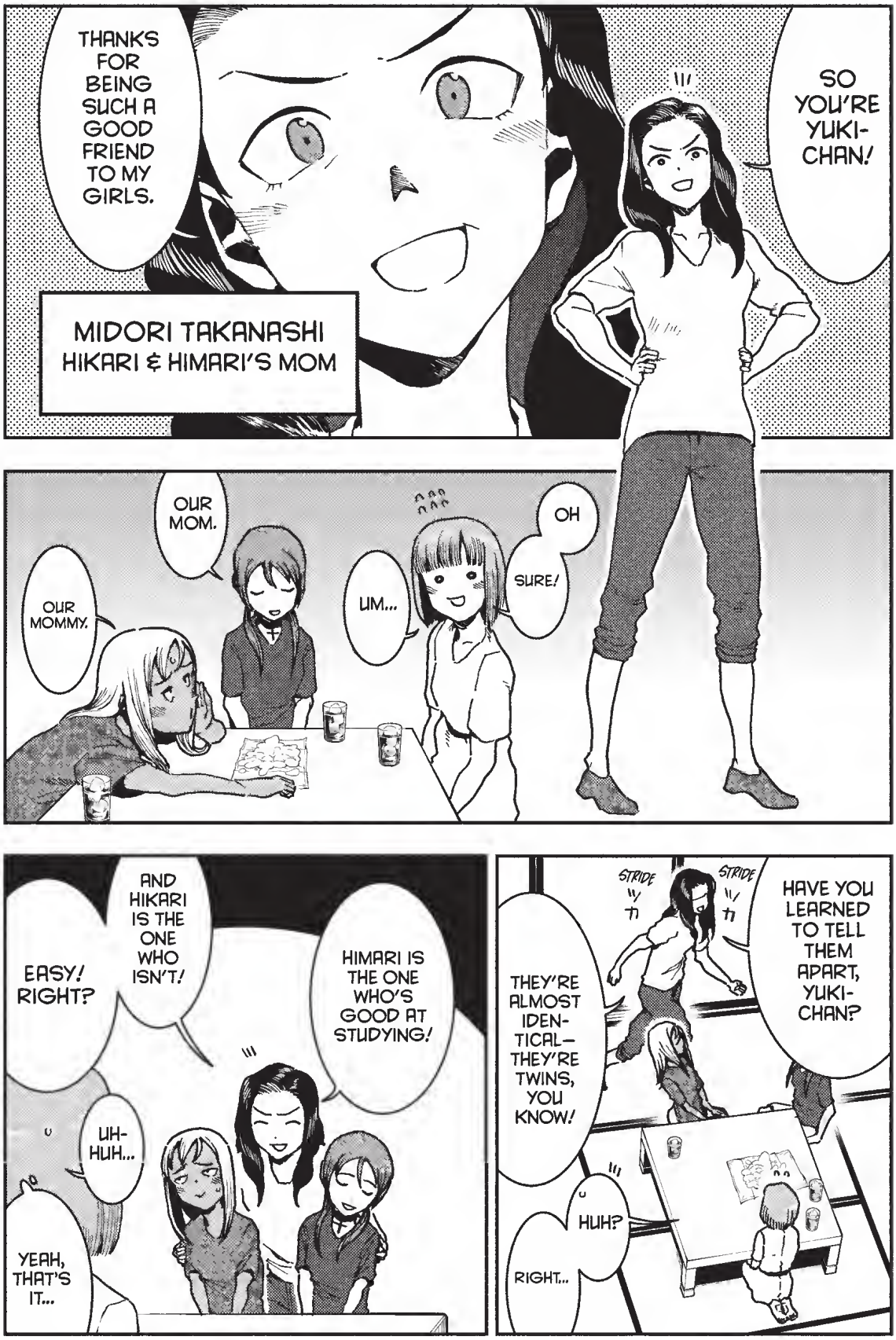
AWW, HIMARI-CHAN, YOU'RE AN ANGEL! ♡
...TRADE BAGS WITH YOU. BUT YOU CAN HAVE HALF OF MINE.
YUKI-CHAN'S HERE AND ALL.
I WON'T...
POP
LET ME OPEN THIS.
HA HA HA...

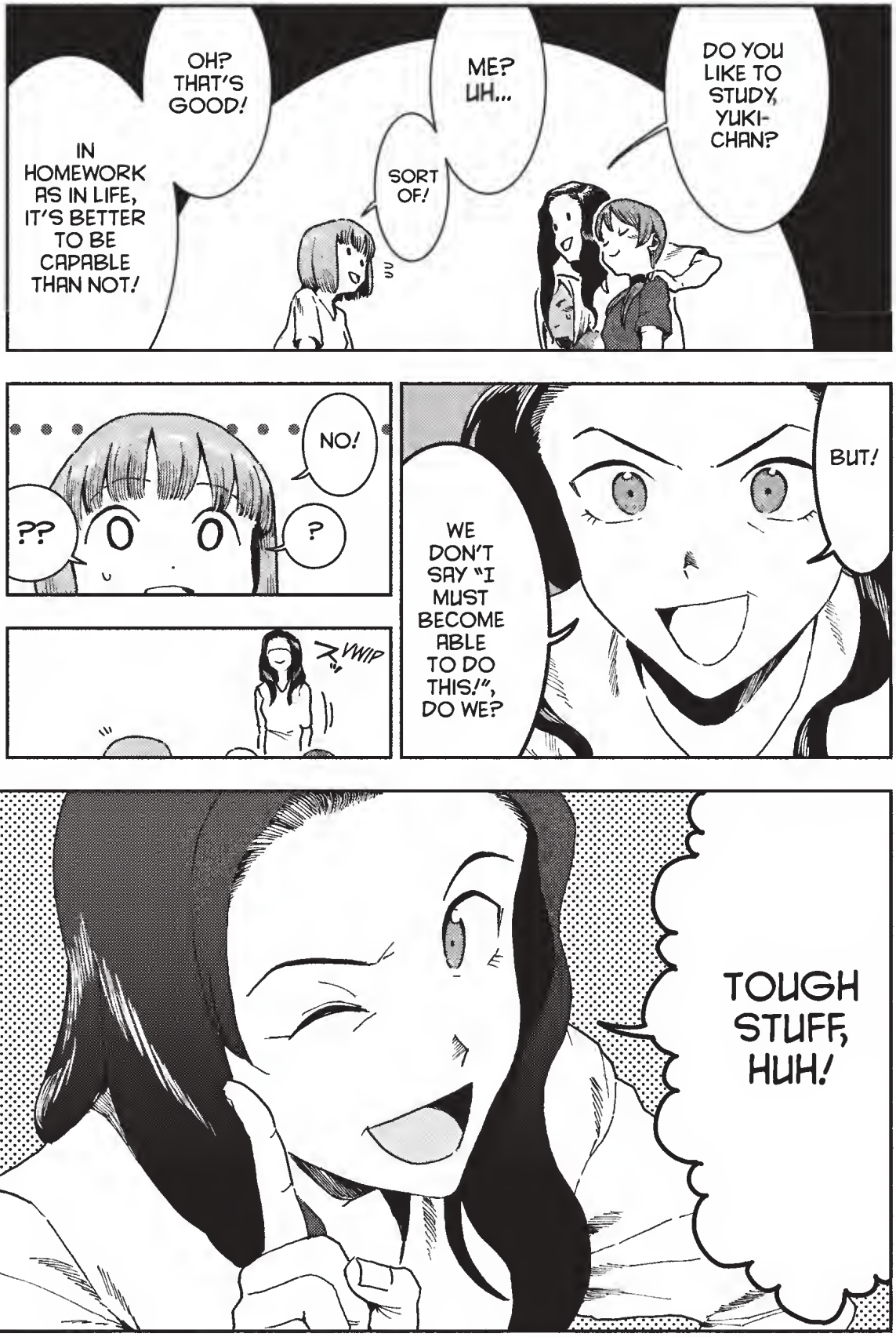
THANK YOU, HIMARI-CHAN.
...BARLEY TEA OKAY?
YUKI-CHAN...


I SEE YOU'RE USED TO HIKARI'S SUNBURNS, HIMARI-CHAN.
THAT'S A LITTLE SISTER FOR YOU!
EH, Y'KNOW.
YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THEM EITHER, YUKI-CHAN.
SIS THINKS IT'S GREAT. SHE CAN JUST LIE AROUND THE HOUSE AND NO ONE GETS MAD AT HER.
MUNCH MUNCH
I LOVE CON-SOMMÉ!

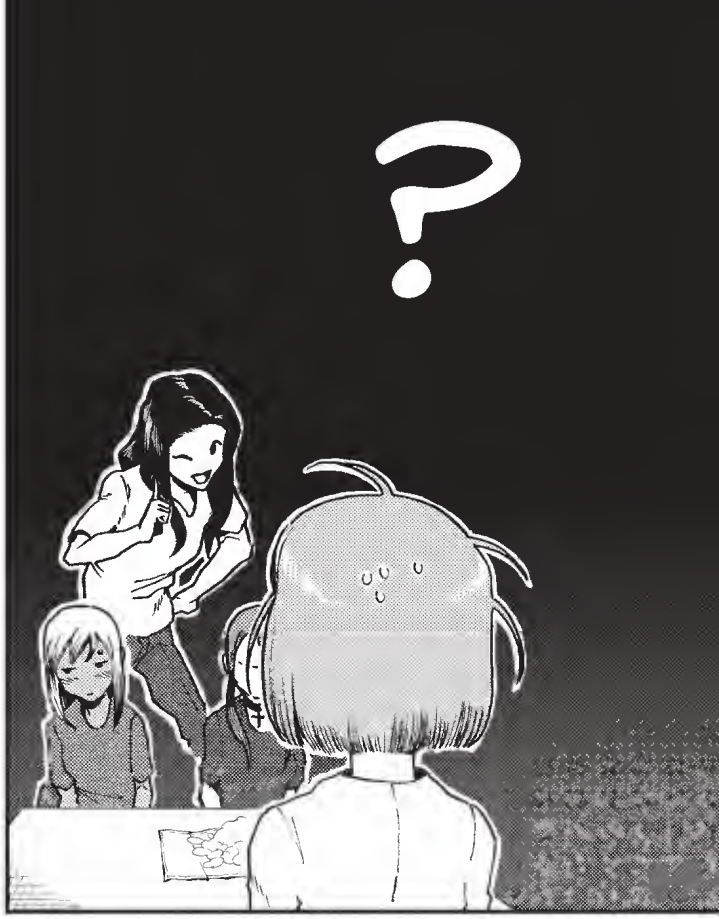

MAYBE IT IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO GET USED TO...
STUFF LIKE THIS.
IT'S THE SORT OF THING FAMILY MEMBERS JUST LEARN TO LIVE WITH.

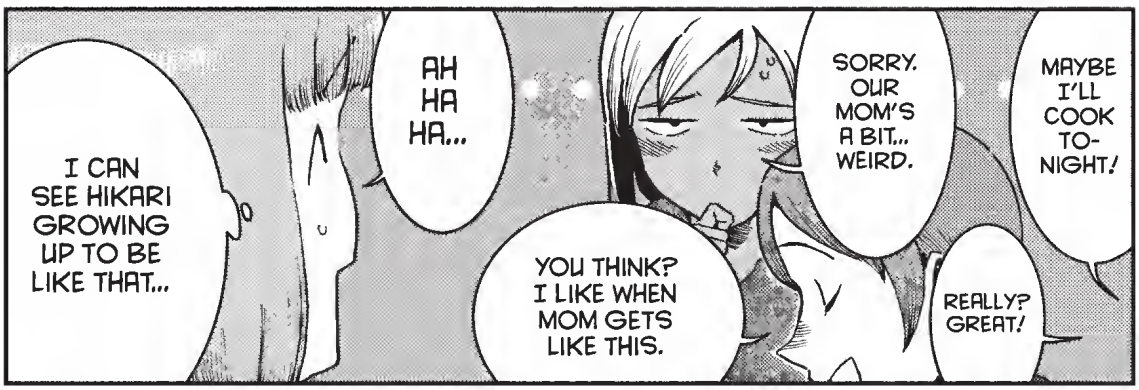

STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
FAMILY...
SHOOOP

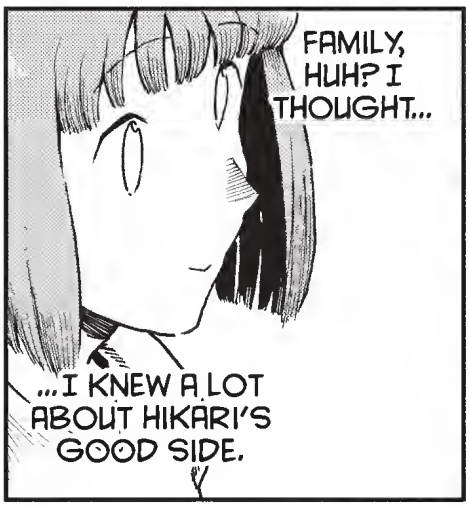

THANKS FOR BEING SUCH A GOOD FRIEND TO MY GIRLS.
MIDORI TAKANASHI
HIKARI & HIMARI'S MOM
SO YOU'RE YUKI-CHAN!
OUR MOM.
OUR MOMMY.
UM...
OH SURE!
AND HIKARI IS THE ONE WHO ISN'T!
EASY! RIGHT?
HIMARI IS THE ONE WHO'S GOOD AT STUDYING!
UH-HUH...
YEAH, THAT'S IT...
STRIDE
STRIDE
HAVE YOU LEARNED TO TELL THEM APART, YUKI-CHAN?
THEY'RE ALMOST IDEN-TICAL— THEY'RE TWINS, YOU KNOW!
HUH?
RIGHT...


DO YOU LIKE TO STUDY, YUKI-CHAN?
ME? UH...
SORT OF!
OH? THAT'S GOOD!
IN HOMEWORK AS IN LIFE, IT'S BETTER TO BE CAPABLE THAN NOT!
NO!
??
?
VWIP
BUT!
WE DON'T SAY "I MUST BECOME ABLE TO DO THIS!", DO WE?
TOUGH STUFF, HUH!

SURE THING!
MIDORI!
LET'S GO SHOP-PING!
OH.
YUKI-CHAN, HOW ABOUT YOU STAY FOR DINNER?

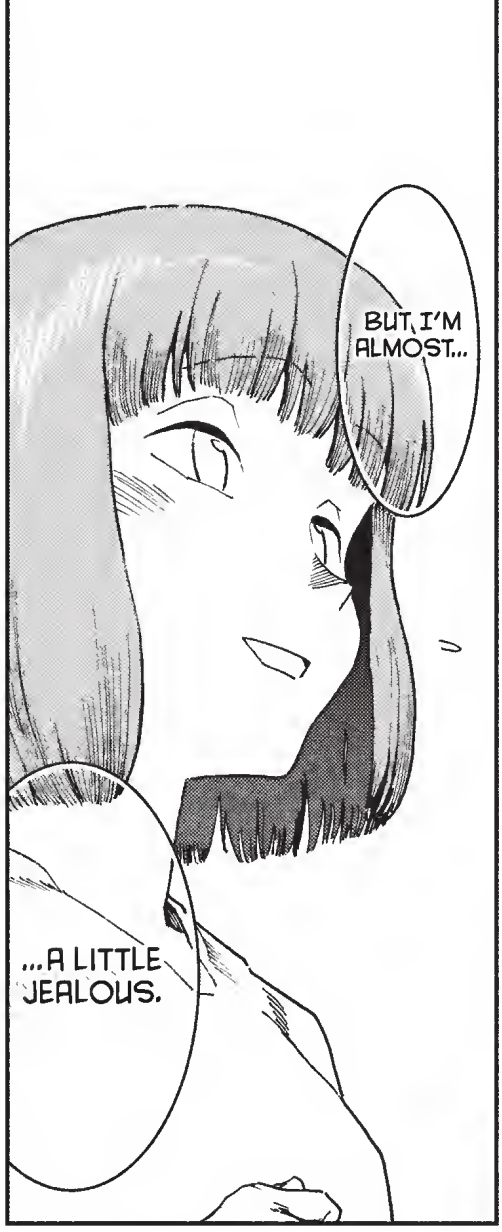

?


I CAN SEE HIKARI GROWING UP TO BE LIKE THAT...
AH HA HA...
YOU THINK? I LIKE WHEN MOM GETS LIKE THIS.
SORRY. OUR MOM'S A BIT... WEIRD.
REALLY? GREAT!
MAYBE I'LL COOK TO-NIGHT!


FAMILY, HUH? I THOUGHT...
...I KNEW A LOT ABOUT HIKARI'S GOOD SIDE.

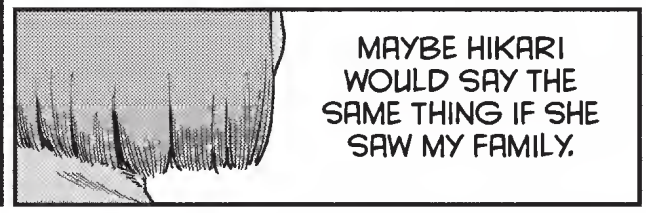
YOU HAVE TO GET USED TO IT...
FAMILY MEMBERS LEARN TO LIVE WITH IT.

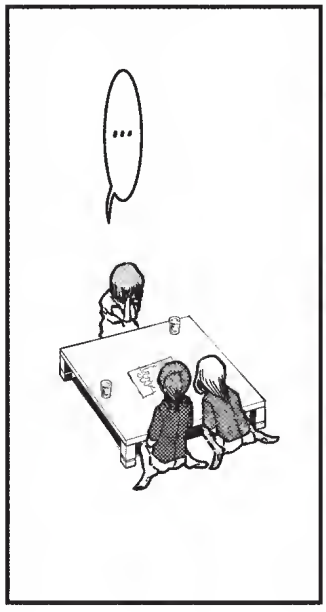
...

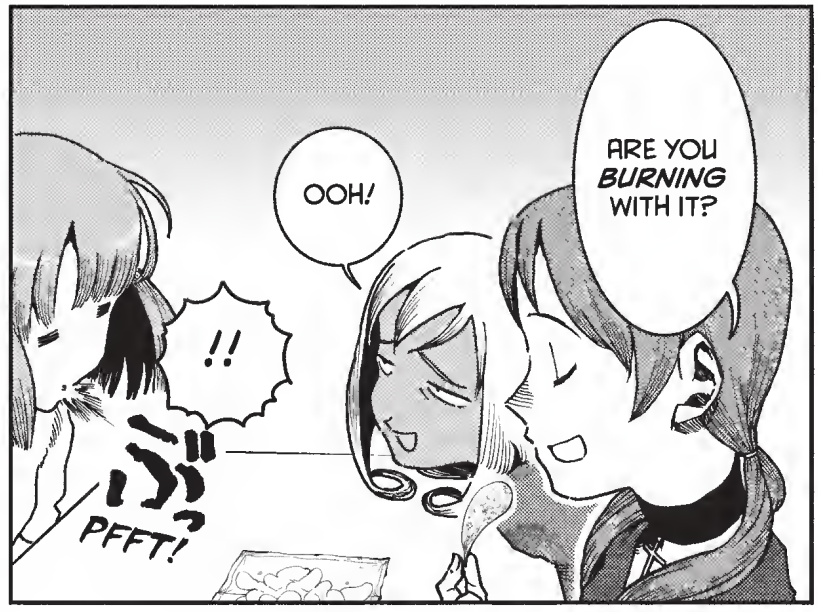


...AS THE PEOPLE WHO ARE WITH HER ALL THE TIME.

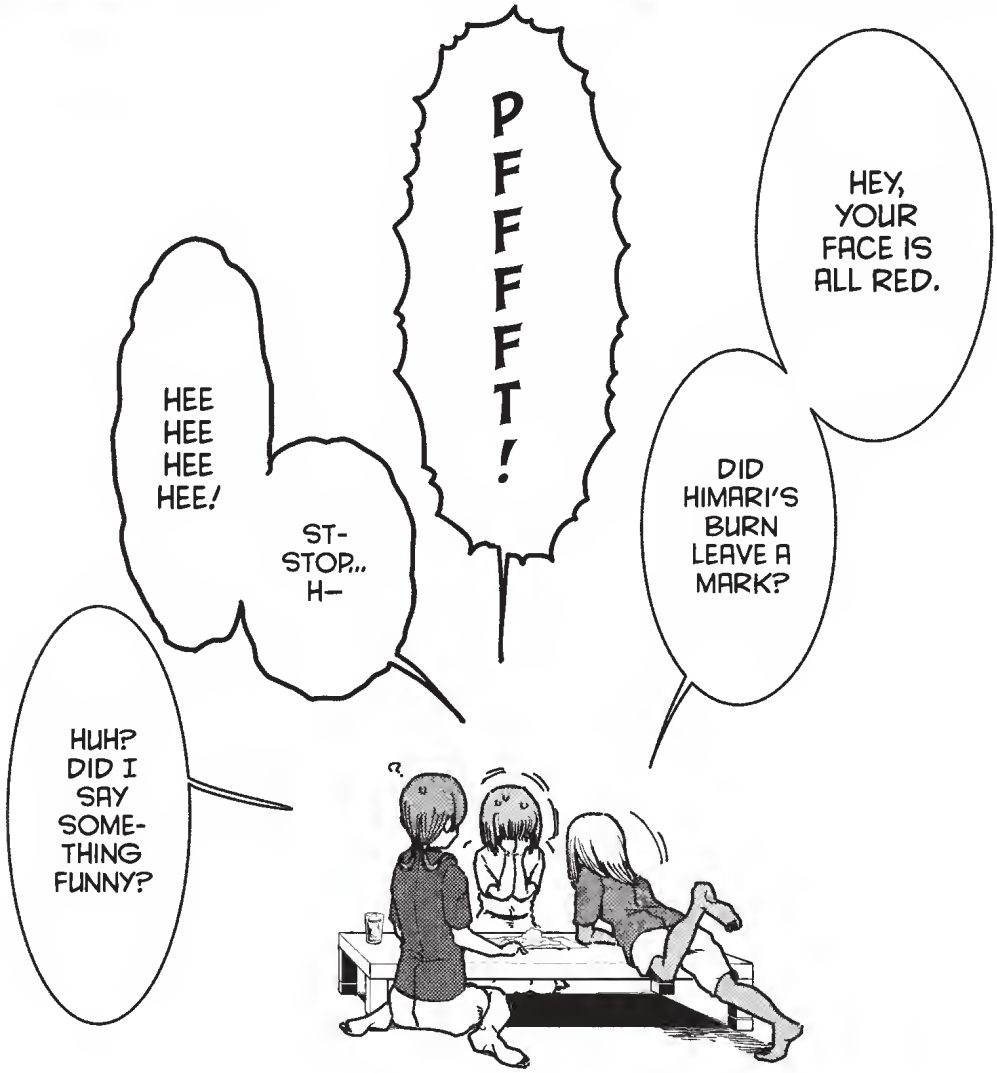
BUT NOT NEAR AS MUCH...

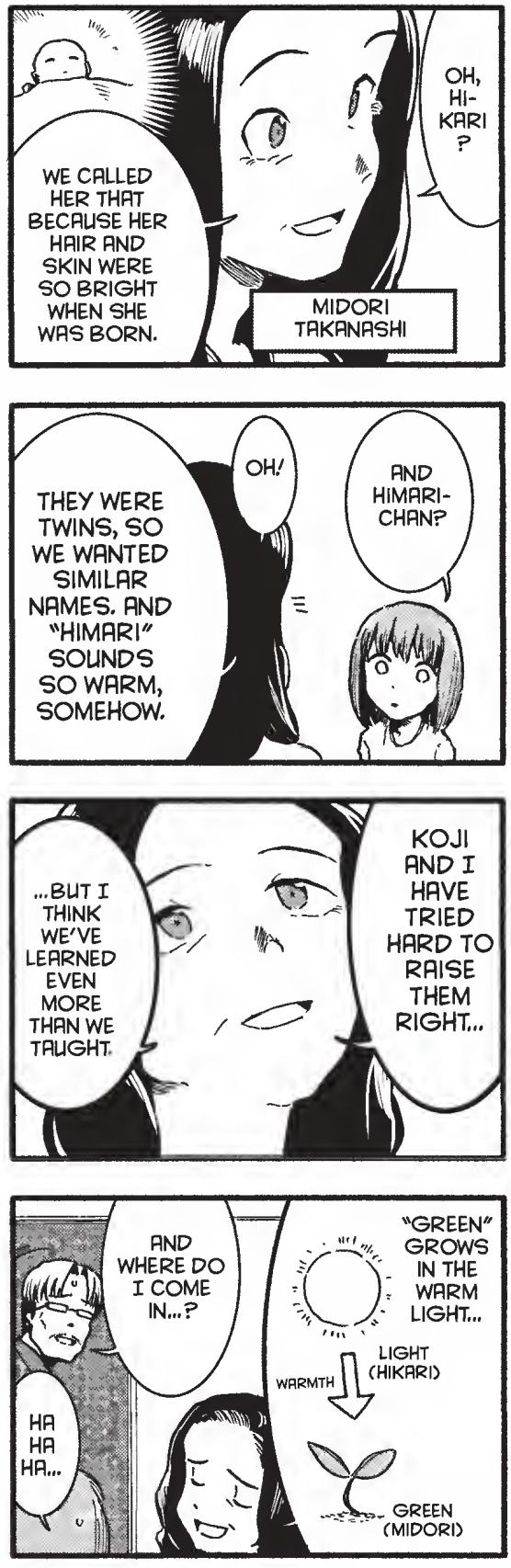




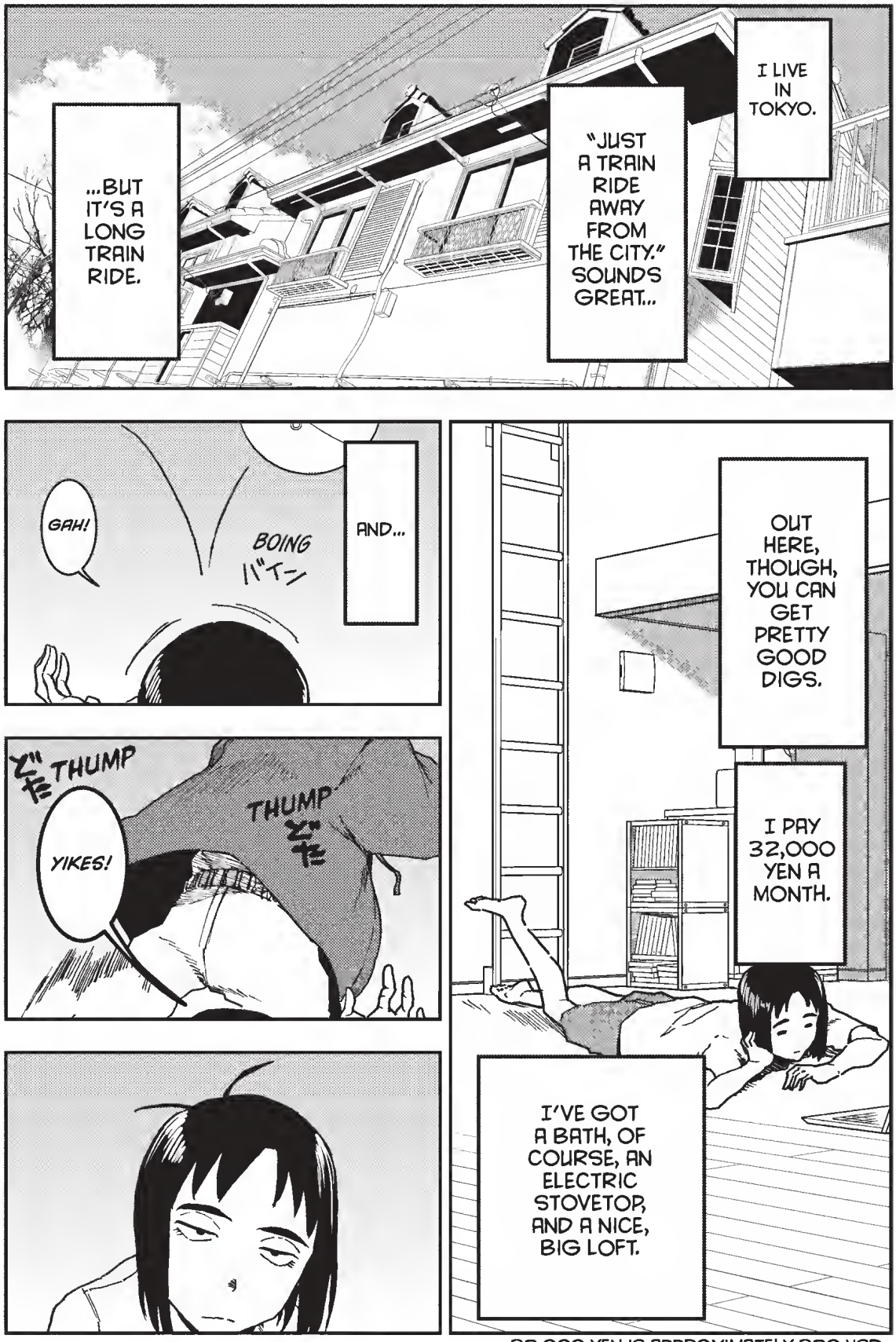


...


PFFFFT!
HEY, YOUR FACE IS ALL RED.
DID HIMARI'S BURN LEAVE A MARK?
HEE HEE HEE HEE!
ST- STOP... H—
HUH? DID I SAY SOME- THING FUNNY?


OH, HI-KARI?
WE CALLED HER THAT BECAUSE HER HAIR AND SKIN WERE SO BRIGHT WHEN SHE WAS BORN.
MIDORI TAKANASHI
AND HIMARI-CHAN?
OH!
THEY WERE TWINS, SO WE WANTED SIMILAR NAMES. AND "HIMARI" SOUNDS SO WARM, SOMEHOW.
KOJI AND I HAVE TRIED HARD TO RAISE THEM RIGHT...
...BUT I THINK WE'VE LEARNED EVEN MORE THAN WE TAUGHT.
"GREEN" GROWS IN THE WARM LIGHT...
LIGHT (HIKARI)
WARMTH
GREEN (MIDORI)
AND WHERE DO I COME IN...?
HA HA HA...

INTERVIEWS WITH MONSTER GIRLS

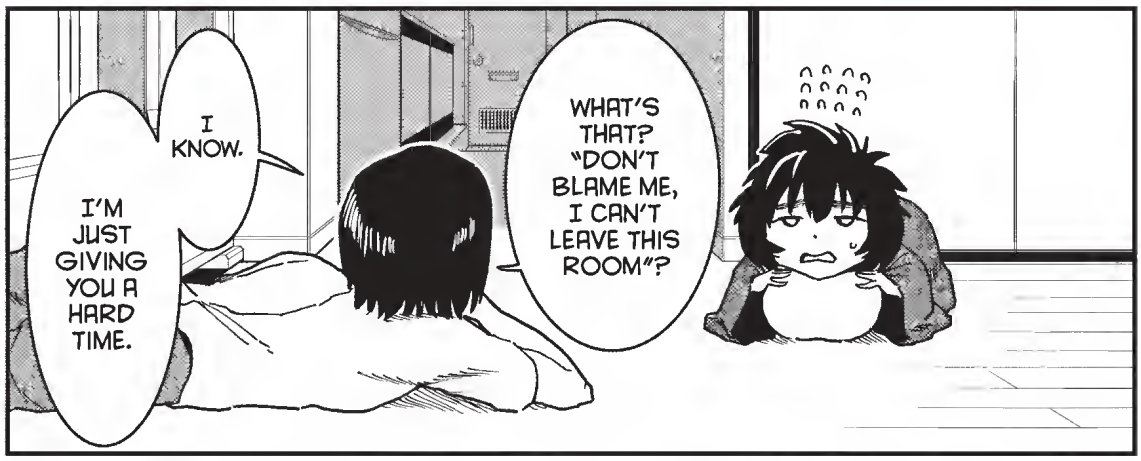


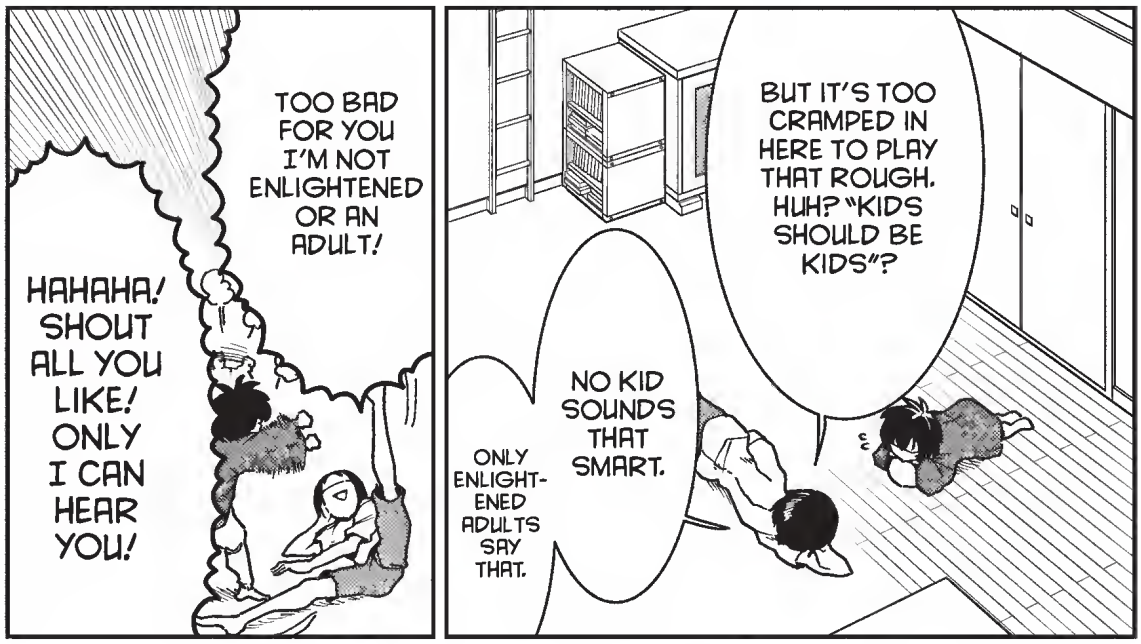
32,000 YEN IS APPROXIMATELY 320 USD.

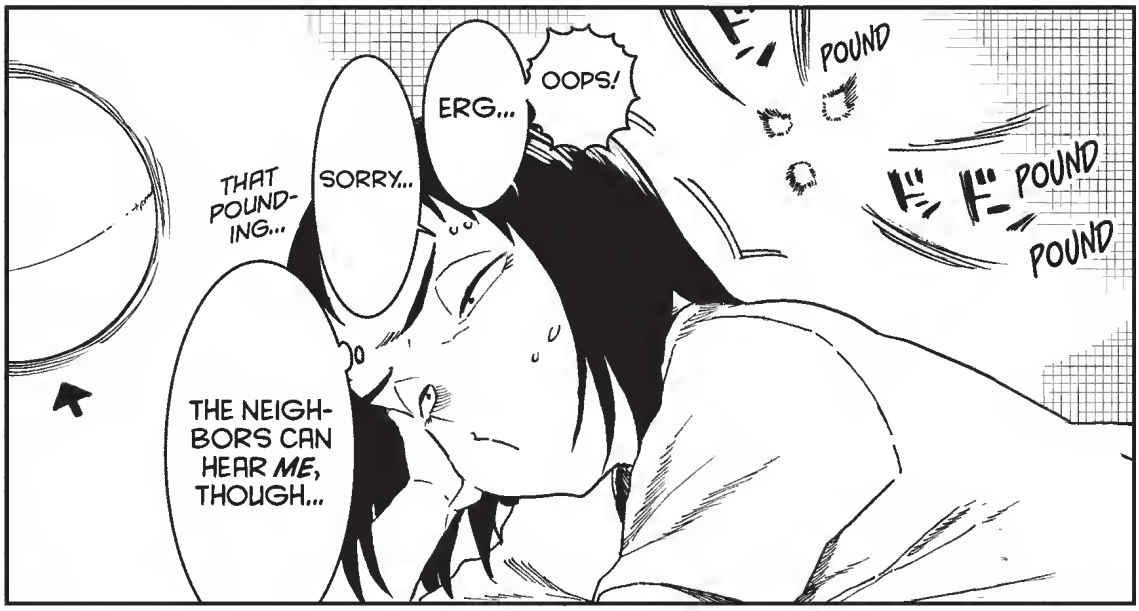
ZASHIKI-WARASHI

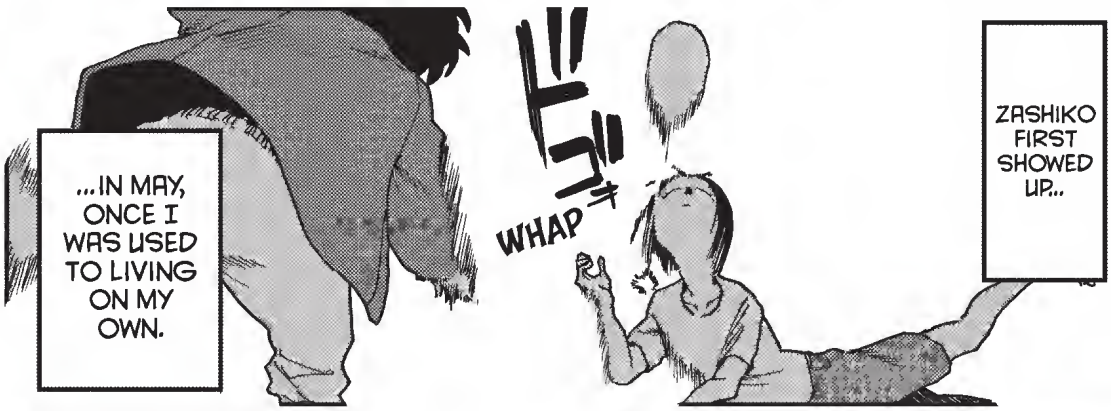
A SPIRIT THAT IS PRIMARILY MENTIONED IN TALES FROM NORTHEASTERN JAPAN. LEGENDS SAY THAT A HOUSE WHERE A ZASHIKI-WARASHI LIVES WILL HAVE HAPPINESS.

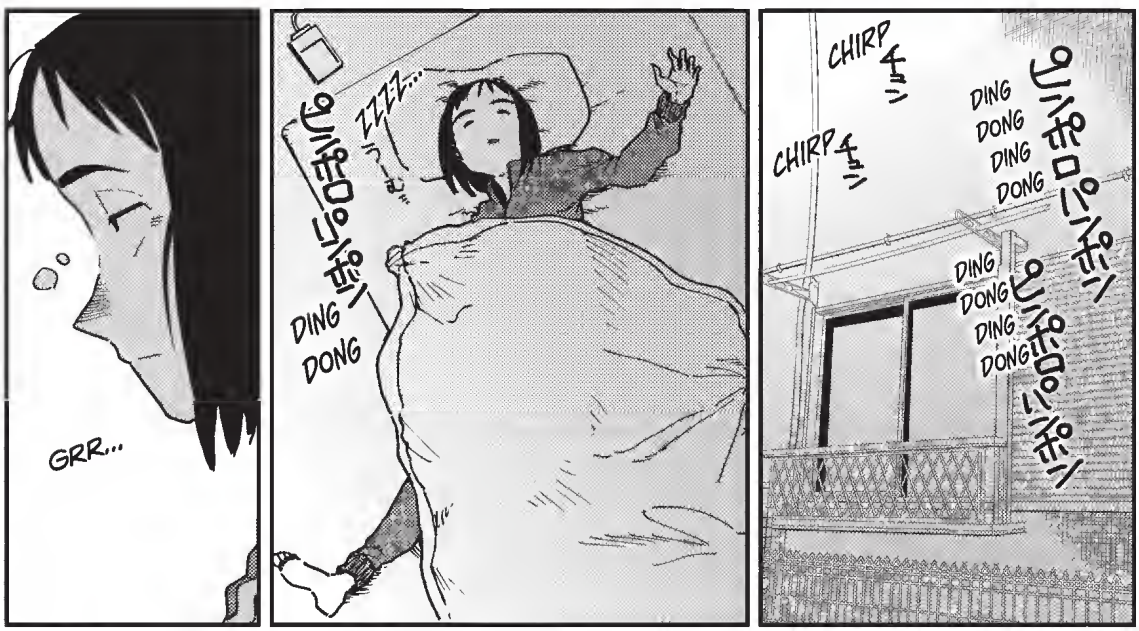
YOKO
18 YEARS OLD
COLLEGE STUDENT
ARR-RGH.
ZA-SHIKO.
HEY, ZASHIKO.
HOW ABOUT YOU TAKE YOUR BALL OUT-SIDE?


WHAT'S THAT? "DON'T BLAME ME, I CAN'T LEAVE THIS ROOM"?
I KNOW.
I'M JUST GIVING YOU A HARD TIME.


BUT IT'S TOO CRAMPED IN HERE TO PLAY THAT ROUGH. HUH? "KIDS SHOULD BE KIDS"?
NO KID SOUNDS THAT SMART.
ONLY ENLIGHT-ENED ADULTS SAY THAT.
TOO BAD FOR YOU I'M NOT ENLIGHTENED OR AN ADULT!
HAHAHA! SHOUT ALL YOU LIKE! ONLY I CAN HEAR YOU!

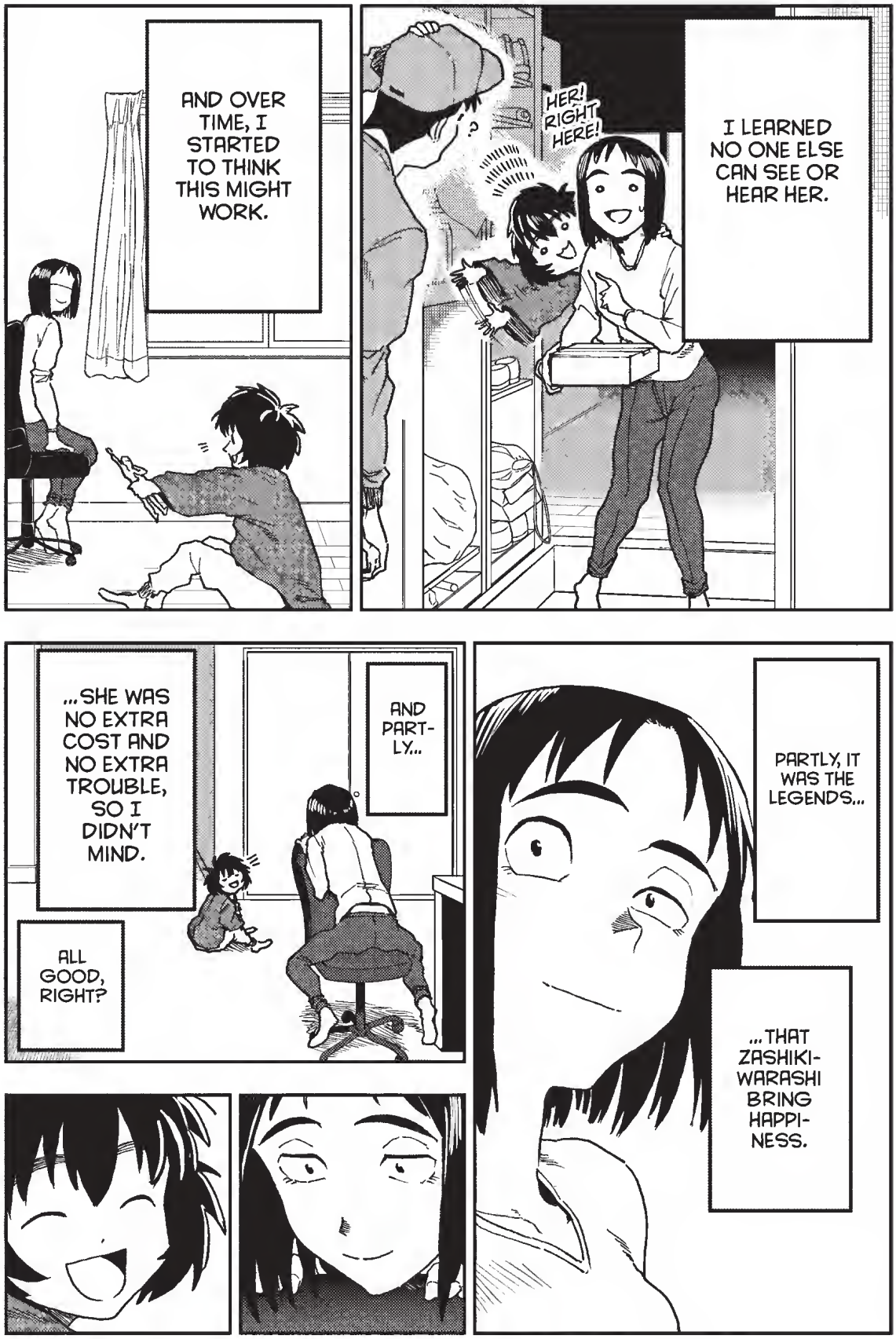

POUND
ドン ドン POUND
POUND
OOPS!
ERG...
SORRY...
THAT POUND-ING...
THE NEIGH-BORS CAN HEAR *ME*, THOUGH...

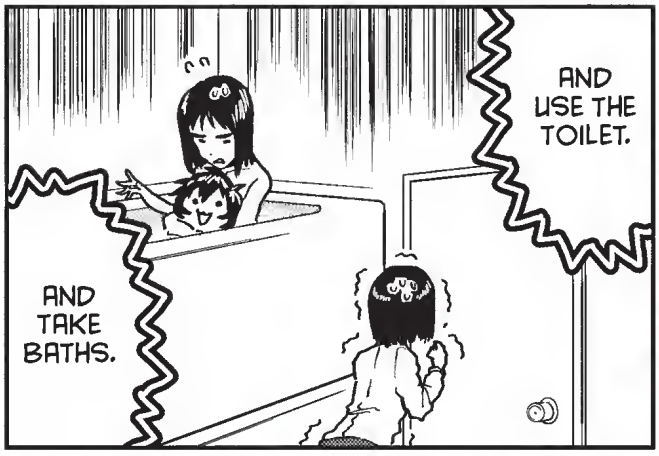

...IN MAY, ONCE I WAS USED TO LIVING ON MY OWN.
ドゴォ
WHAP
ZASHIKO FIRST SHOWED UP...


GRR...
ピンポロピンポン
DING DONG
...ZZZZ
CHIRP チュン
CHIRP チュン
DING DONG DING DONG
DING DONG DING DONG
ピンポロピンポン

I WOKE UP, AND THERE SHE WAS.
...BUT SHE FOUGHT HARD AT THE FRONT DOOR.
...
I TRIED TO TAKE HER TO THE POLICE BOX...
HER CLOTHES MADE ME THINK "ZASHIKI-WARASHI."
THE SHORT COAT AND ALL.
BUT I WASN'T SURE.
I'M SORRY!
BUT I AM THROWING YOU—

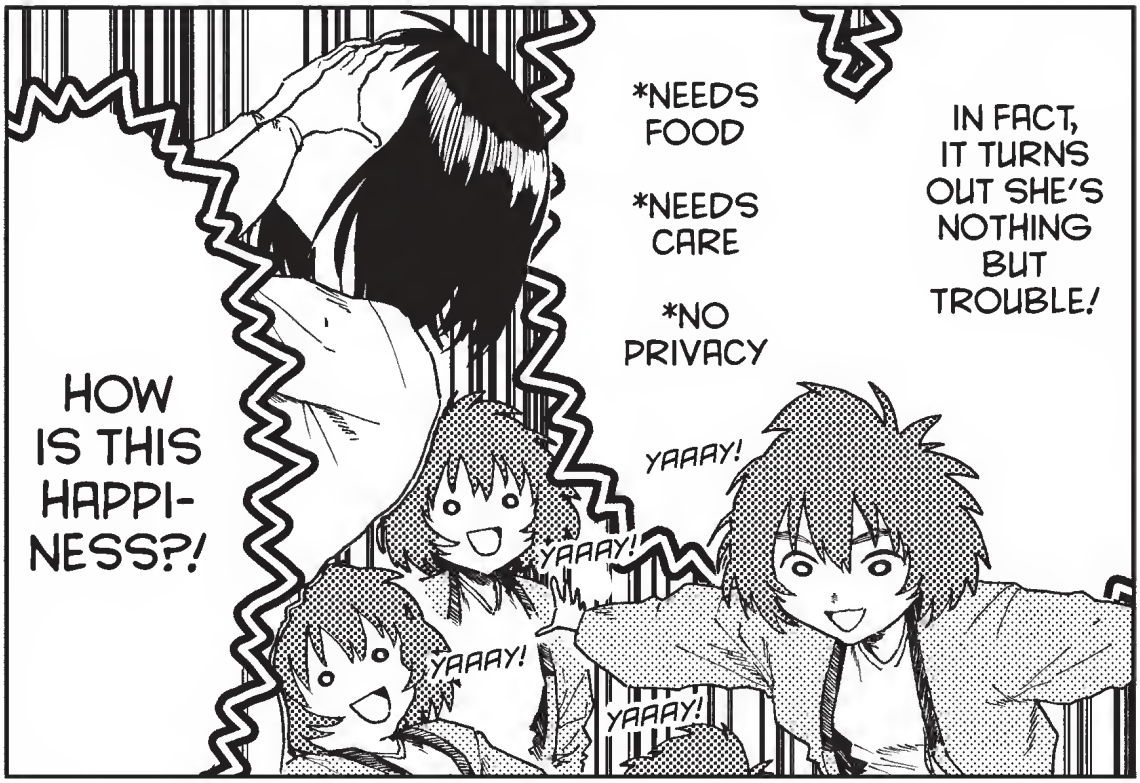
POOF
BWAH
ぶわ
—OUT!
...
...
YEP..
ZASHIKI-WARASHI.
CAN'T ARGUE WITH SUPER-NATURAL PROOF.

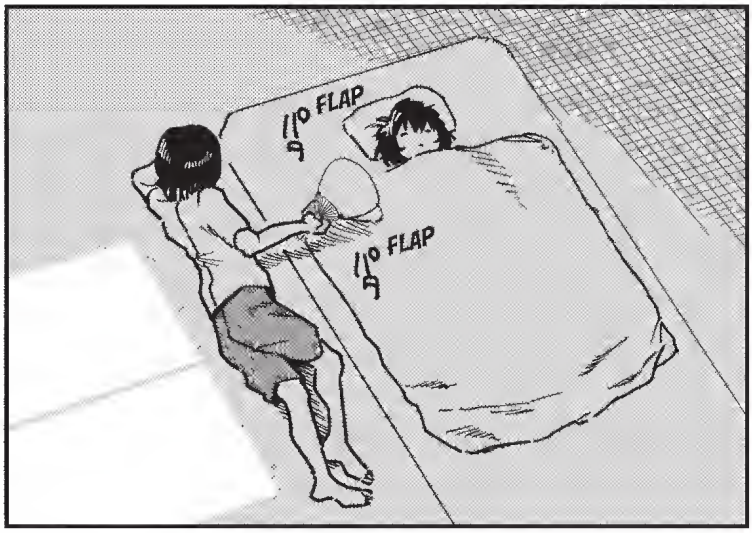

AND OVER TIME, I STARTED TO THINK THIS MIGHT WORK.
I LEARNED NO ONE ELSE CAN SEE OR HEAR HER.
HER! RIGHT HERE!
?
...SHE WAS NO EXTRA COST AND NO EXTRA TROUBLE, SO I DIDN'T MIND.
AND PART-LY...
ALL GOOD, RIGHT?
PARTLY, IT WAS THE LEGENDS...
...THAT ZASHIKI-WARASHI BRING HAPPI-NESS.


AND USE THE TOILET.
AND TAKE BATHS.

WHAT A PAIN!

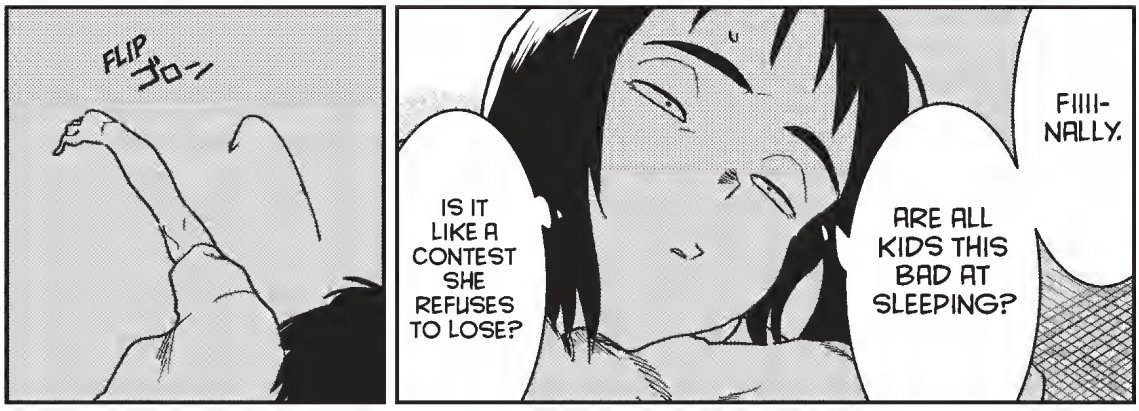
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
ぼくばくばん ぼくばくばく ぼくばく
THEN IT TURNS OUT SHE DOES NEED TO EAT.
SOME SPIRIT!

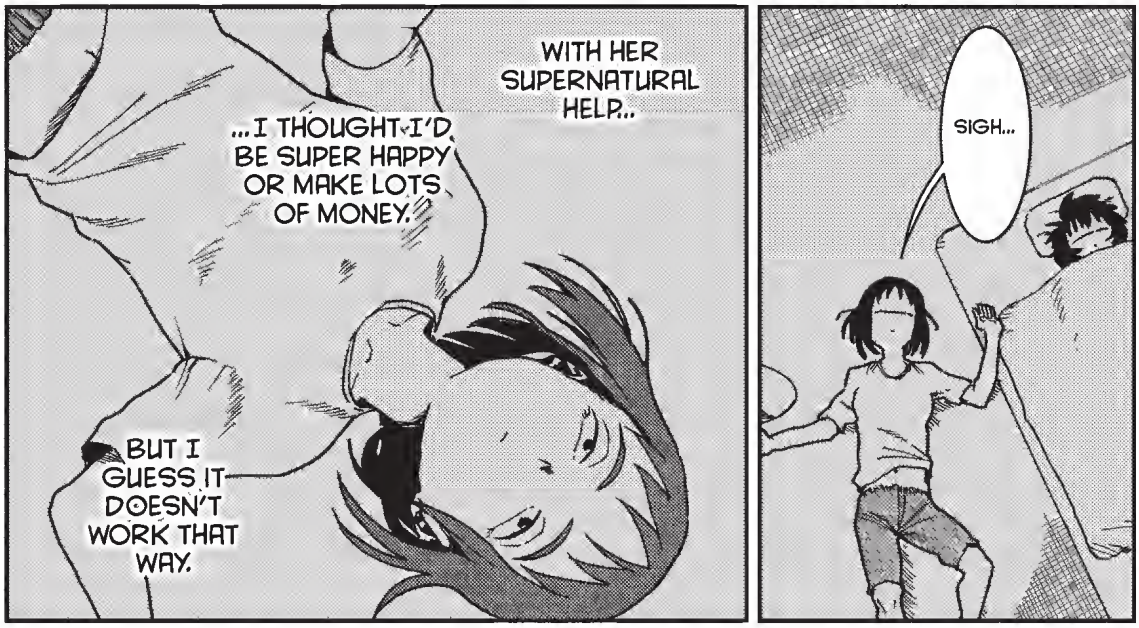

HOW IS THIS HAPPI-NESS?!
*NEEDS FOOD
*NEEDS CARE
*NO PRIVACY
IN FACT, IT TURNS OUT SHE'S NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!
YAAAY!
YAAAY!
YAAAY!
YAAAY!

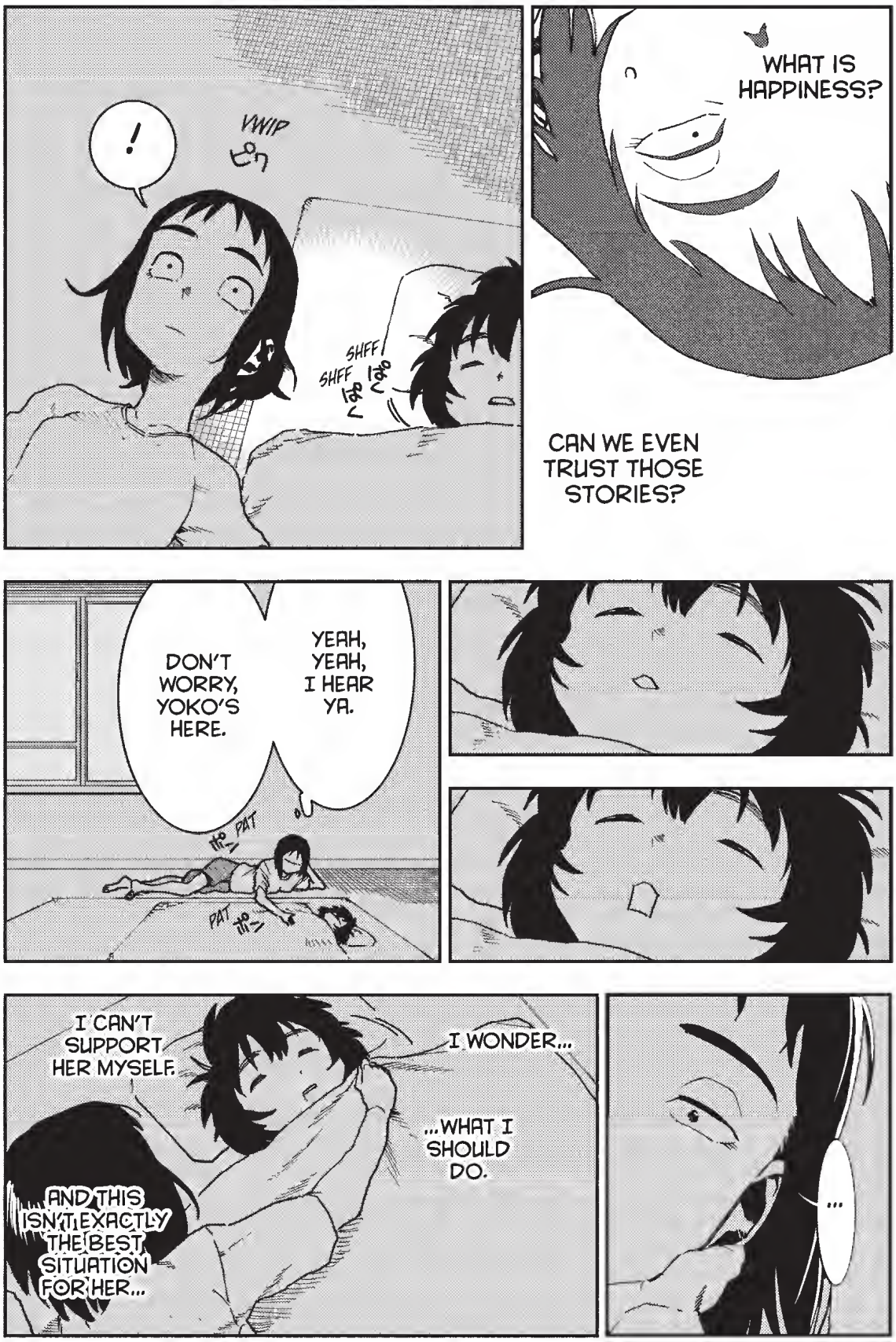

FLAP
FLAP

GAAAAH!

...
FLAP
FLAP

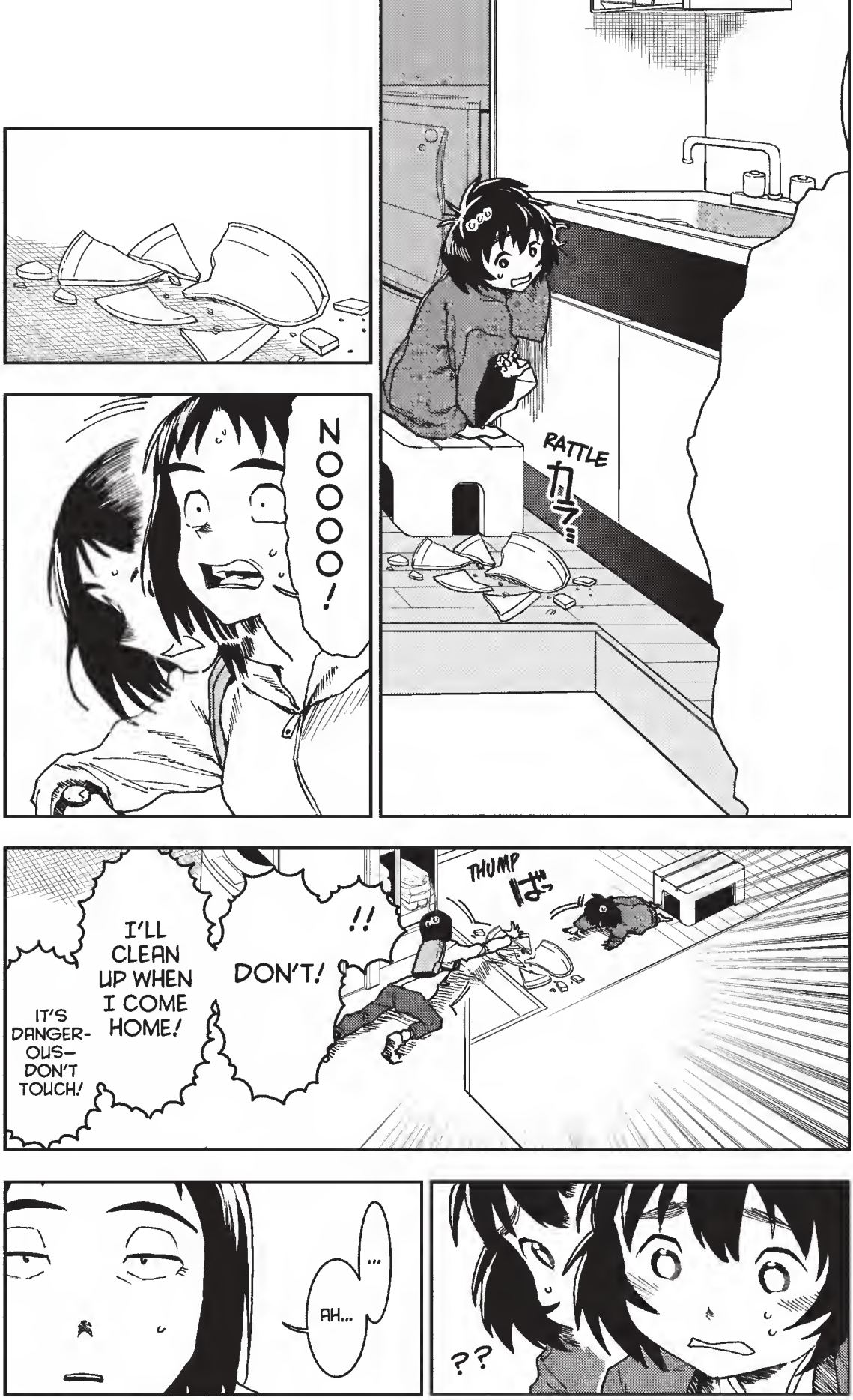

FLIP
ゴロ〜ン
FIIII-
NALLY.
ARE ALL KIDS THIS BAD AT SLEEPING?
IS IT LIKE A CONTEST SHE REFUSES TO LOSE?


WITH HER SUPERNATURAL HELP...
...I THOUGHT I'D BE SUPER HAPPY OR MAKE LOTS OF MONEY.
BUT I GUESS IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY.
SIGH...


!
VWIP
SHFF
SHFF
WHAT IS HAPPINESS?
CAN WE EVEN TRUST THOSE STORIES?
DON'T WORRY, YOKO'S HERE.
YEAH, YEAH, I HEAR YA.
PAT
PAT
I CAN'T SUPPORT HER MYSELF.
I WONDER...
...WHAT I SHOULD DO.
AND THIS ISN'T EXACTLY THE BEST SITUATION FOR HER...
...

...
HM.
SQUEEZE
THE NEXT DAY.
ドドド

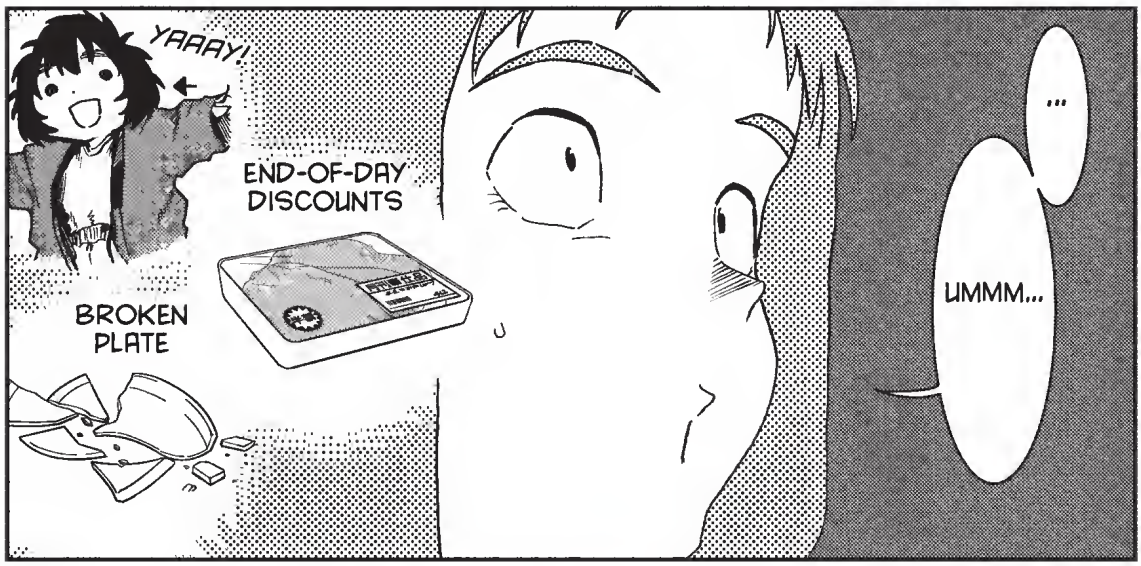
"I WANT TO HELP WITH HOUSE-WORK"?
HOW? GONNA WASH THE DISHES?
I'VE GOTTA GET TO SCHOOL!
JUST NUKE YOUR LUNCH, OKAY?
っっっっ
OH.
BUT DON'T USE UP MY ITEMS.
OKAY?
DON'T WORRY, LET ME HANDLE IT.
I'D RATHER YOU LEVELED UP MY CHAR-ACTER IN MY GAME!
KER-ASH

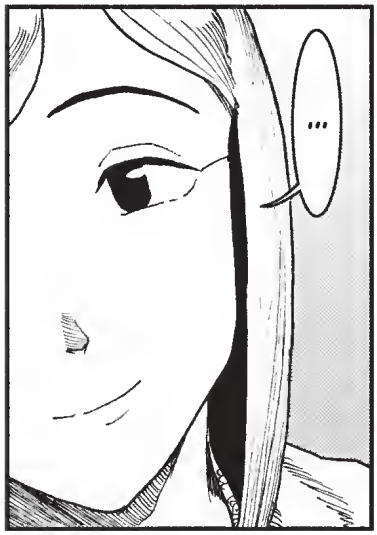

RATTLE
カラ…
NOOOO!
THUMP
ばっ
!!
DON'T!
I'LL CLEAN UP WHEN I COME HOME!
IT'S DANGER-OUS— DON'T TOUCH!
…
AH…
??

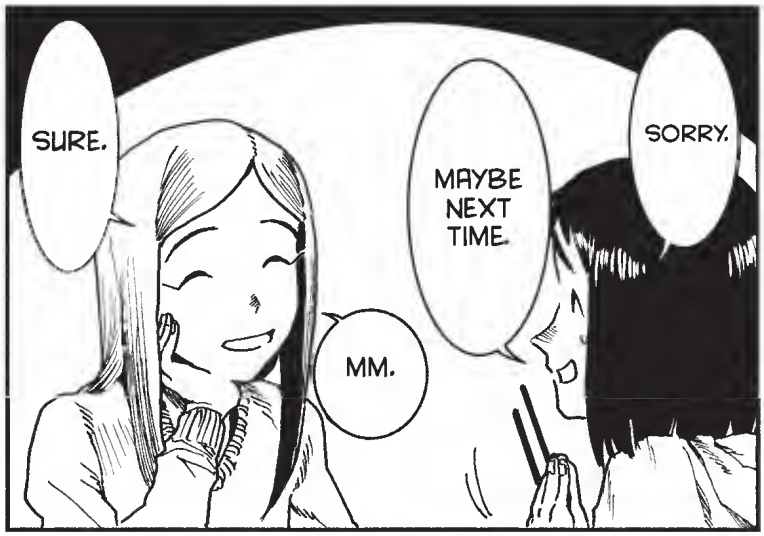
I'M SORRY.
YOU CAN'T COUNT ON ME FOR MUCH.
I KNOW YOU CAN'T GO OUTSIDE...
BUT MAYBE YOU CAN MOVE TO ANOTHER HOUSE OR SOMETHING.
WOULDN'T YOU BE HAPPIER THAT WAY?
FIND AN ENLIGHTENED ADULT, WHO CAN SUPPORT YOU.
THINK ABOUT IT.
SOB, SOB.
GEEZ, SHE'S LOUD.
CLACK
TO ME, ANYWAY.

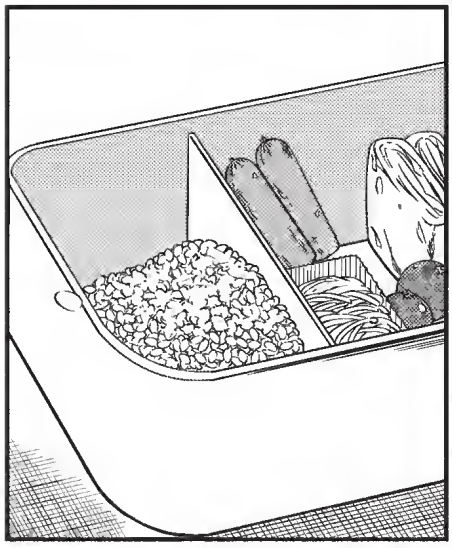
カチャ!
CLICK!
...
NO ONE ELSE CAN HEAR HER...
GAB
カリ
ヤ
GAB
カリ
ヤ
MUSASHINO UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
GAB
カリ
ヤ
カリ
ヤ
GAB
PHY-SICS.
WITH SOMA.
WHAT'VE YOU GOT THIRD PERIOD?

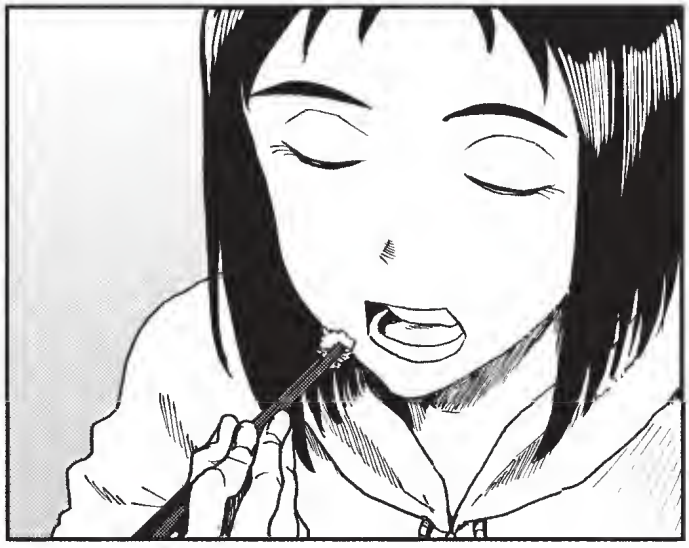
PLUS HE'S EASY ON THE EYES!
HA! HA! HA!
...
HMM...
EASY CREDITS.
GAB
MM.
IF YOU LISTEN TO THE LECTURES.
GAB
SOMA-SENSEI'S A GOOD EXPLAINER.
OH!
WE'RE MEETING SOME GUYS LATER. WANT TO COME?
HUH?
SOME GUYS?
I GUESS THE WORLD LOOKS DIFFERENT WITH PUPILS AS SMALL AS YOURS!
DOES NOT! THESE PUPILS RUN IN MY FAMILY...

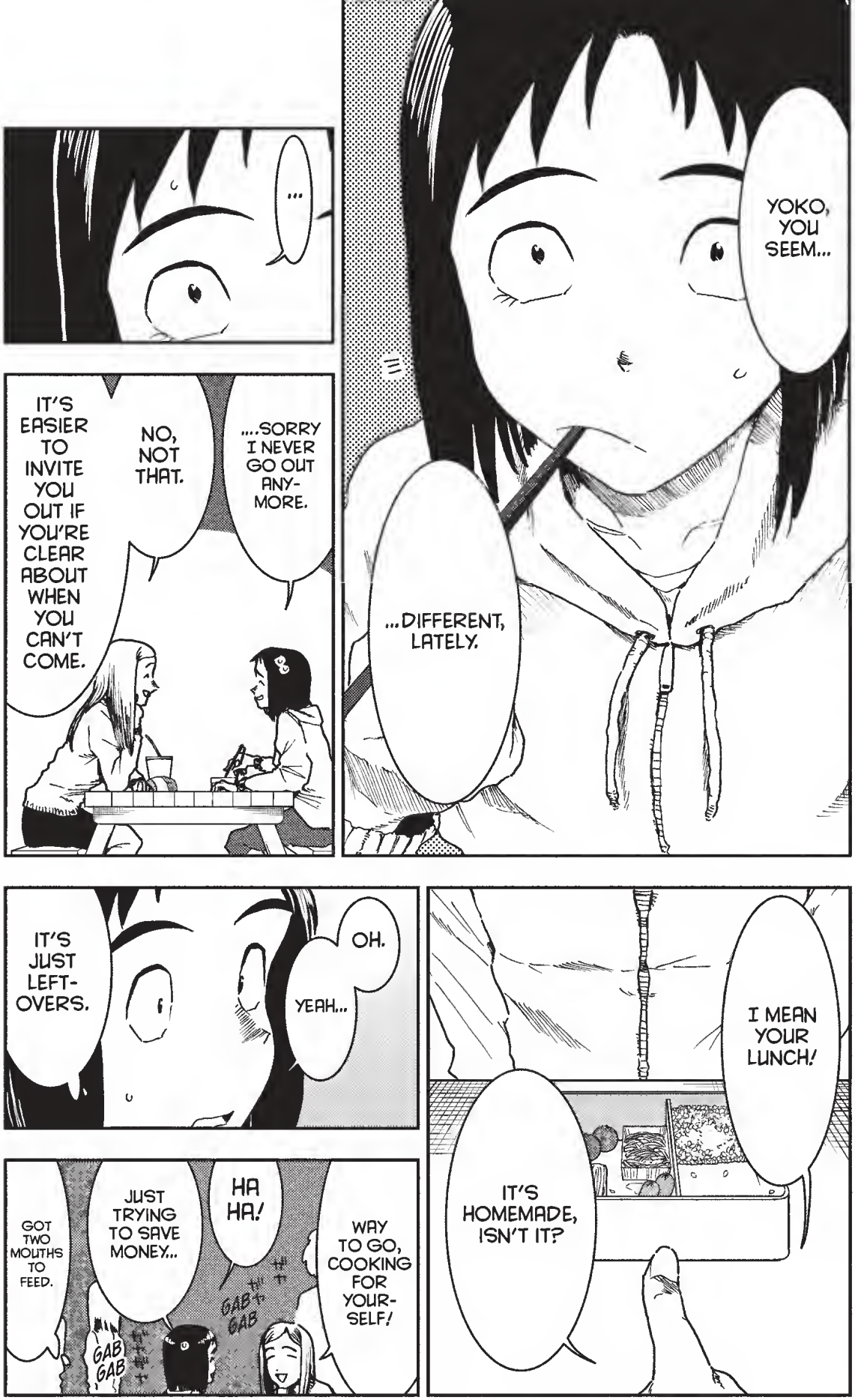

YAAAY!
END-OF-DAY DISCOUNTS
BROKEN PLATE
...
UMMM...

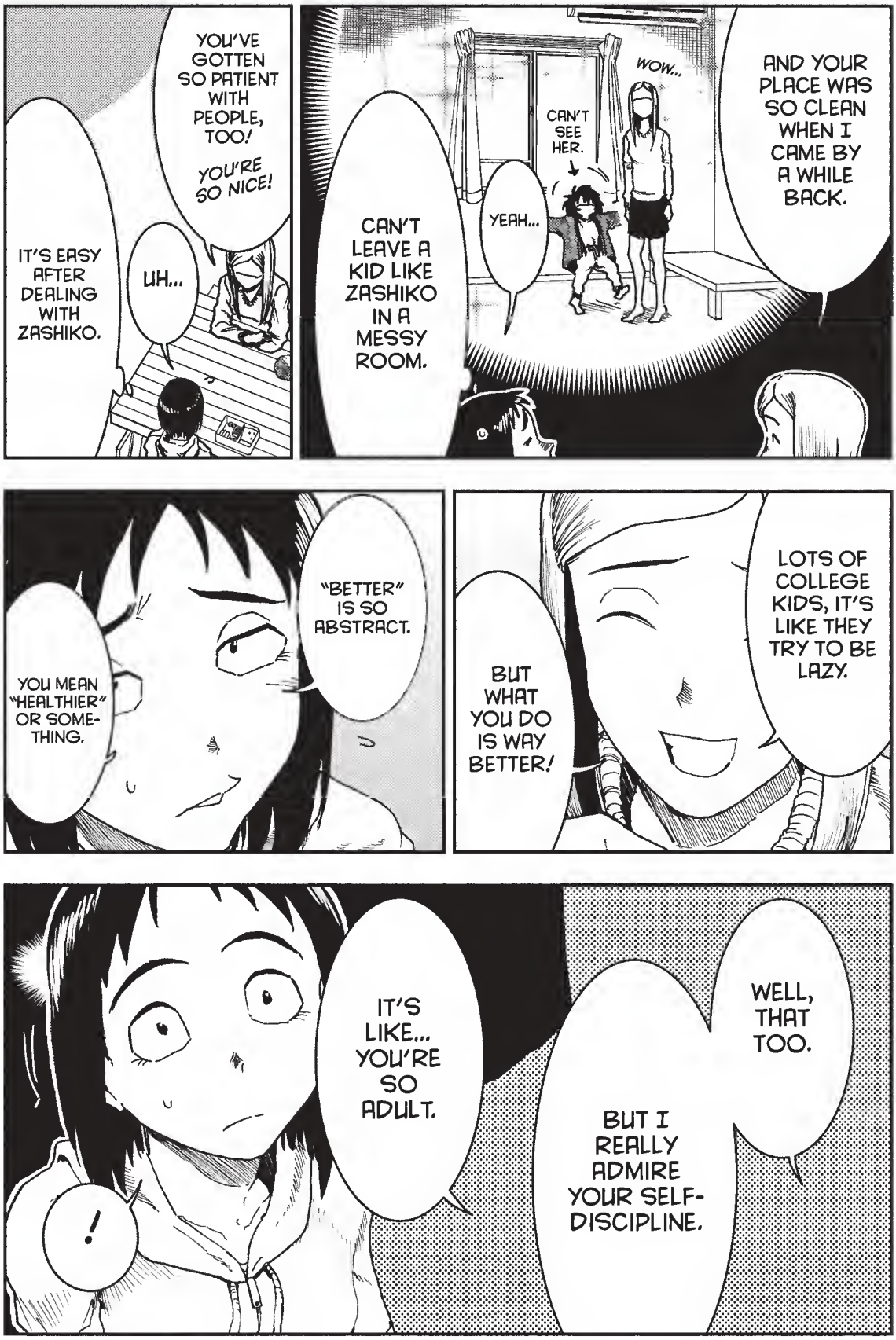

...


SURE.
MM.
MAYBE NEXT TIME.
SORRY.

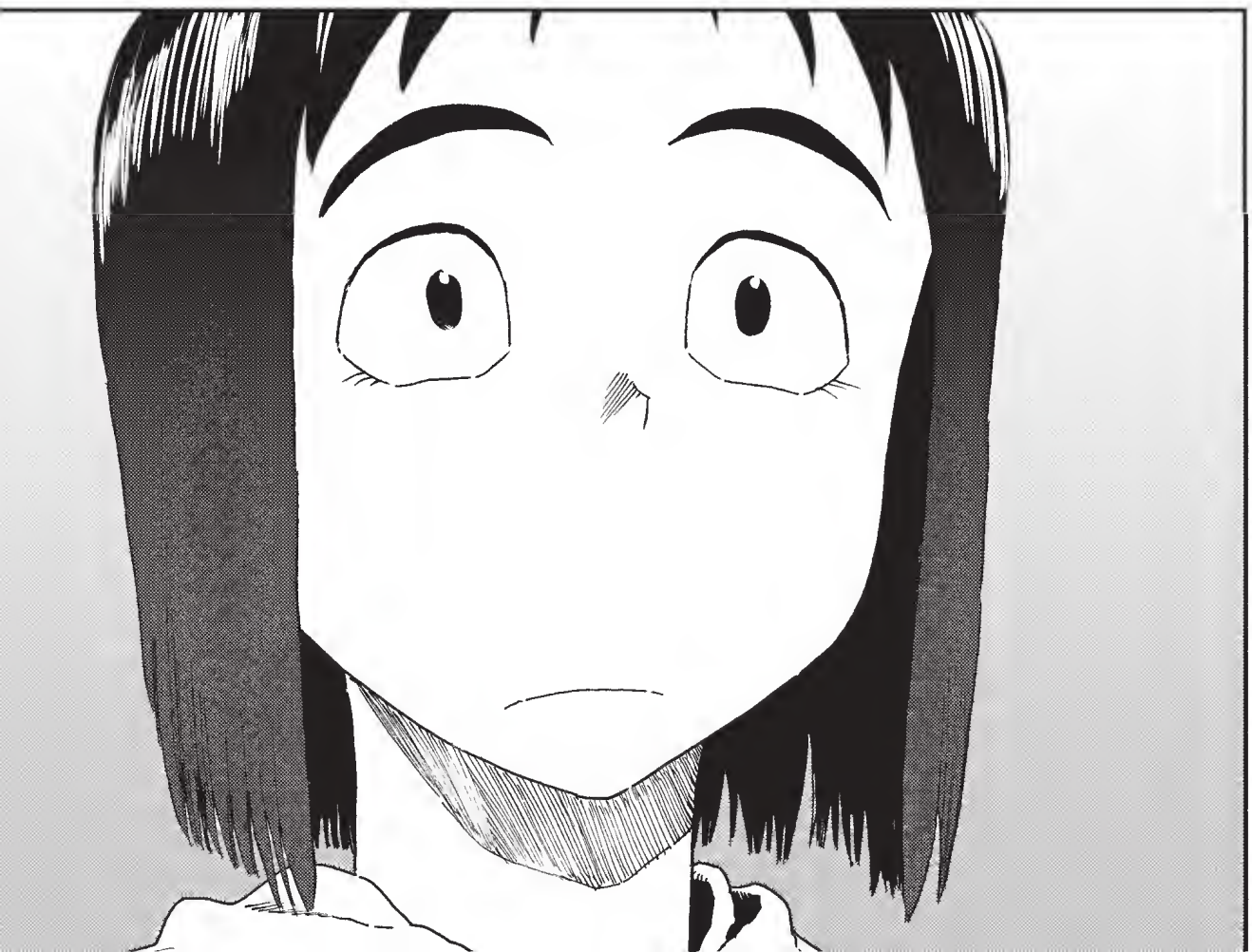





...
YOKO, YOU SEEM...
...DIFFERENT, LATELY.
....SORRY I NEVER GO OUT ANY-MORE.
NO, NOT THAT.
IT'S EASIER TO INVITE YOU OUT IF YOU'RE CLEAR ABOUT WHEN YOU CAN'T COME.
I MEAN YOUR LUNCH!
IT'S HOMEMADE, ISN'T IT?
OH.
YEAH...
IT'S JUST LEFT-OVERS.
WAY TO GO, COOKING FOR YOUR-SELF!
HA HA!
JUST TRYING TO SAVE MONEY...
GOT TWO MOUTHS TO FEED.
GAB GAB
GAB GAB

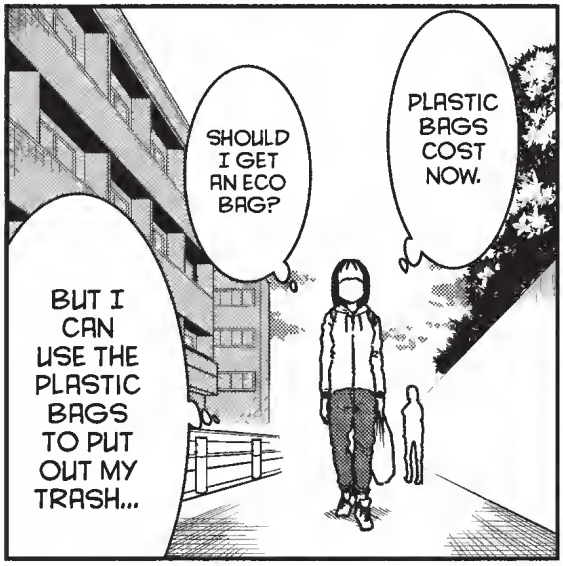

YOU'VE GOTTEN SO PATIENT WITH PEOPLE, TOO!
YOU'RE SO NICE!
UH...
IT'S EASY AFTER DEALING WITH ZASHIKO.
WOW...
AND YOUR PLACE WAS SO CLEAN WHEN I CAME BY A WHILE BACK.
CAN'T SEE HER.
YEAH...
CAN'T LEAVE A KID LIKE ZASHIKO IN A MESSY ROOM.
"BETTER" IS SO ABSTRACT.
YOU MEAN "HEALTHIER" OR SOMETHING.
LOTS OF COLLEGE KIDS, IT'S LIKE THEY TRY TO BE LAZY.
BUT WHAT YOU DO IS WAY BETTER!
WELL, THAT TOO.
IT'S LIKE... YOU'RE SO ADULT.
BUT I REALLY ADMIRE YOUR SELF-DISCIPLINE.
!

AND YOU SEEM SO HAPPY.



YOKO-KUN!
YOKO TAKAHASHI-KUN!! THAT PAPER YOU WROTE WAS TERRRRIBLE!!
REWRITE IIIIIT!
バーン
BAAAAAAM
HE LOOKS HAPPY...
YEAH...

OOF.


PLASTIC BAGS COST NOW.
SHOULD I GET AN ECO BAG?
BUT I CAN USE THE PLASTIC BAGS TO PUT OUT MY TRASH...

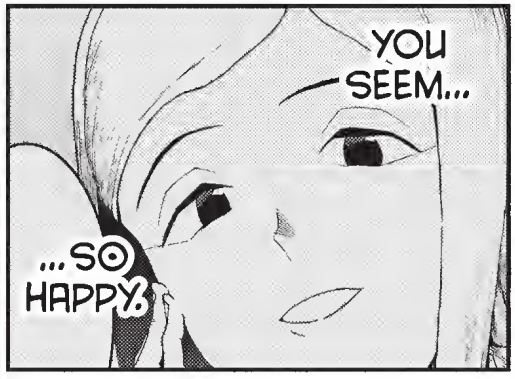
CLEAR SKIES...
SEZYU SEZ

"HAPPY," HUH?
"STINGY" IS MORE LIKE IT.
I GUESS ALL THESE SMALL CHANGES TOGETHER...
...MIGHT LOOK LIKE HAPPI-NESS...
...TO SOME-ONE ELSE.

HOW ANTI-CLIMAC-TIC.
BUT I GUESS A LOT OF LEGENDS ARE.

I DO IT ALL BECAUSE OF ZASHIKO.
SO IF I LOOK HAPPY, IT'S THANKS TO HER.
IS THIS WHAT THOSE LEGENDS WERE ALL ABOUT...?

WELL...
I DON'T EXACTLY MIND.
SOME SPIRIT WHO MAKES EVERYTHING EASY NEVER MADE ANYONE POPULAR.

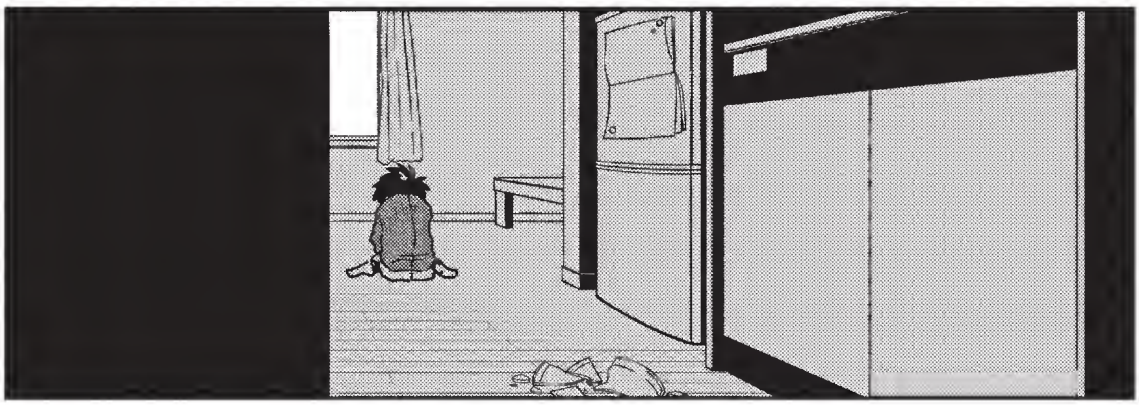

YOU SEEM...
...SO HAPPY.

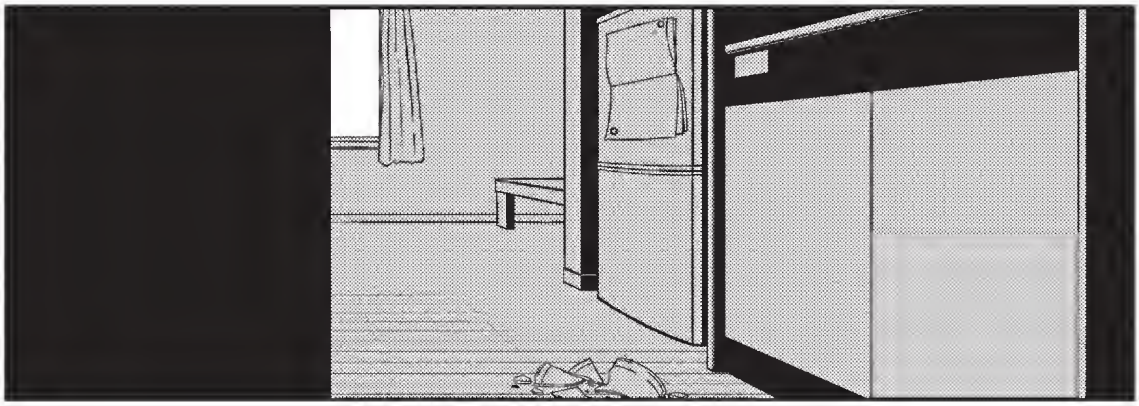
...

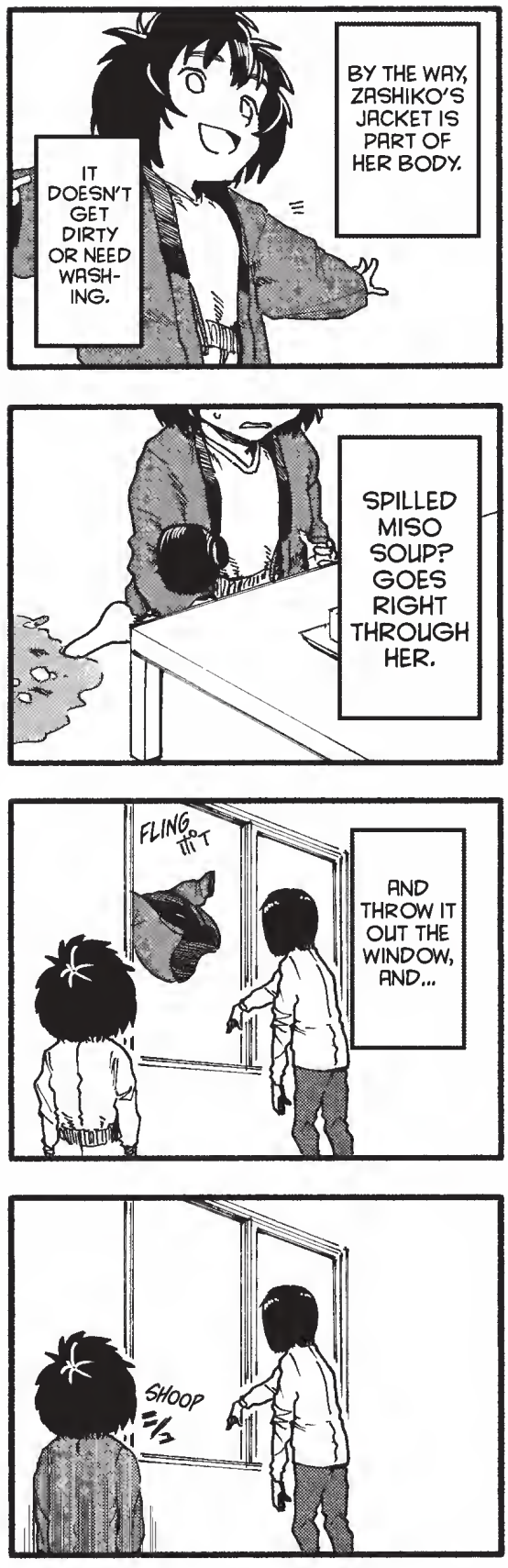
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND!
...
I AM!
GONNA LIVE WITH ZASHIKO!
I'M NOT ENLIGHTENED, AND I'M NO ADULT!
BUT I WILL BE!
IF YOU DON'T DELIBERATELY CHANGE, YOU'LL BE A KID FOREVER!
YOU DON'T BECOME AN ADULT JUST BY GETTING OLDER!
LIVING WITH ZASHIKO ISN'T EASY.
SHE COSTS MONEY.
SHE DOESN'T LISTEN TO ME.
AND SHE CAUSES A LOT OF TROUBLE...

...BUT THAT'S NOT ALL SHE DOES!
THANKS YOKO
OKAY! I'LL BUY ZASHIKO SOME CAKE TO CELEBRATE!

WOULDN'T YOU BE—
MAYBE YOU CAN MOVE TO ANOTHER HOUSE OR SOMETHING.



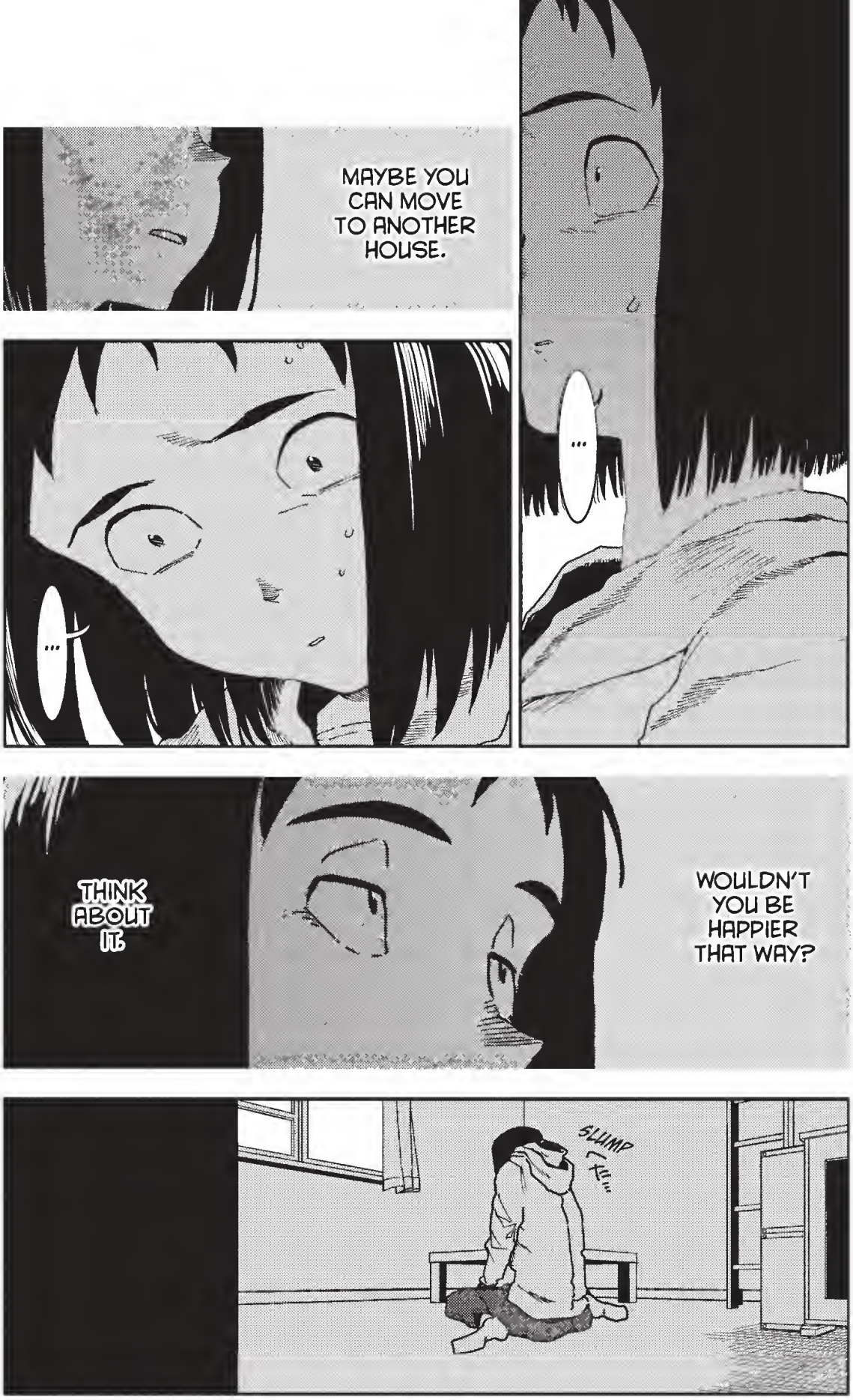


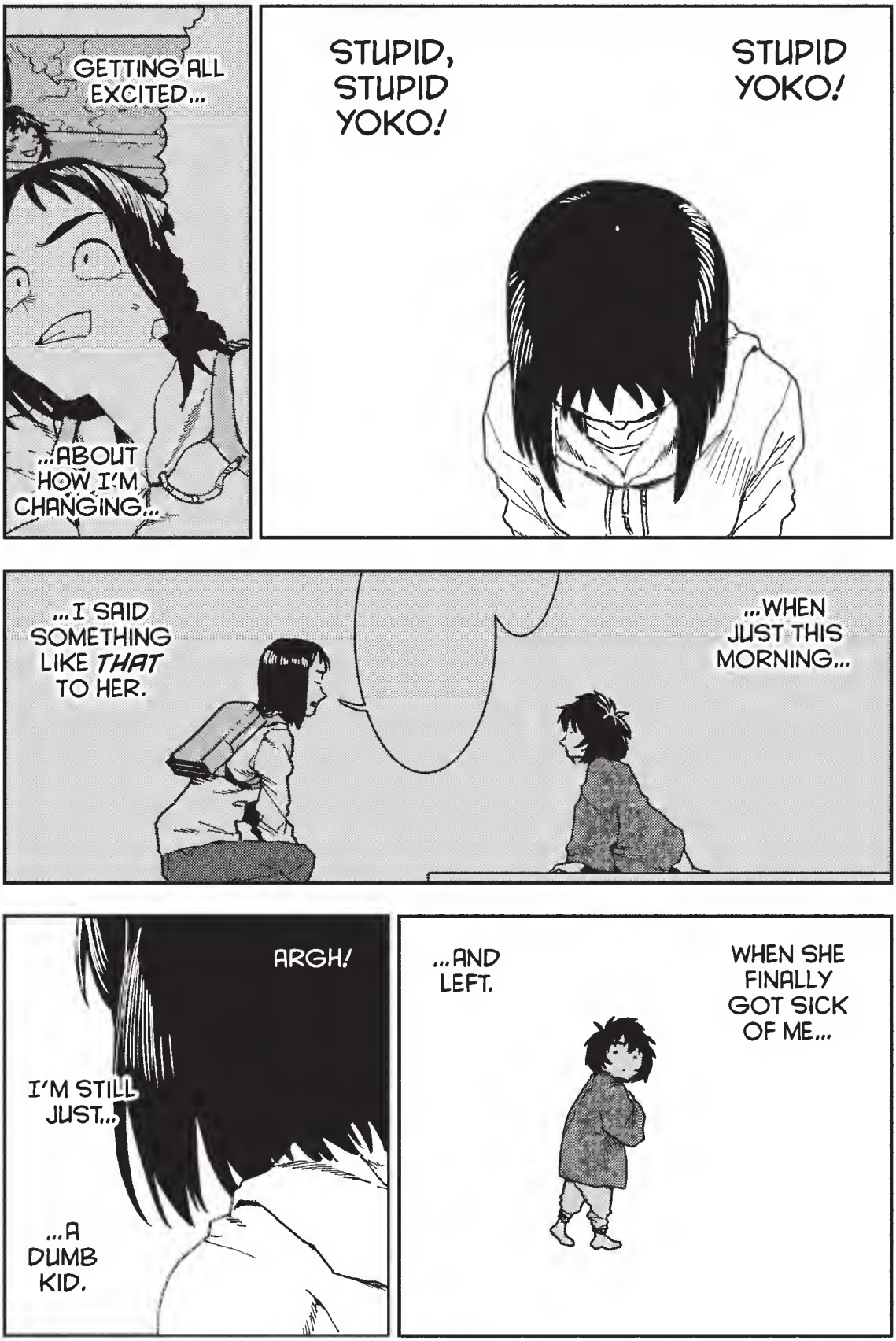

BY THE WAY, ZASHIKO'S JACKET IS PART OF HER BODY.
IT DOESN'T GET DIRTY OR NEED WASH-ING.
SPILLED MISO SOUP? GOES RIGHT THROUGH HER.
FLING
AND THROW IT OUT THE WINDOW, AND...
SHOOP

INTERVIEWS WITH MONSTER GIRLS

Chapter 37: A Zashiki-warashi's Happiness (Part 2)

WHERE ARE YOU?
...
DON'T YOU WANT CAKE?
PEEK
ピョコ
CLACK
バタン


MAYBE YOU CAN MOVE TO ANOTHER HOUSE.
...
...
THINK ABOUT IT.
WOULDN'T YOU BE HAPPIER THAT WAY?
SLUMP


GETTING ALL EXCITED...
...ABOUT HOW I'M CHANGING...
STUPID, STUPID YOKO!
STUPID YOKO!
...I SAID SOMETHING LIKE *THAT* TO HER.
...WHEN JUST THIS MORNING...
ARGH!
I'M STILL JUST...
...A DUMB KID.
...AND LEFT.
WHEN SHE FINALLY GOT SICK OF ME...

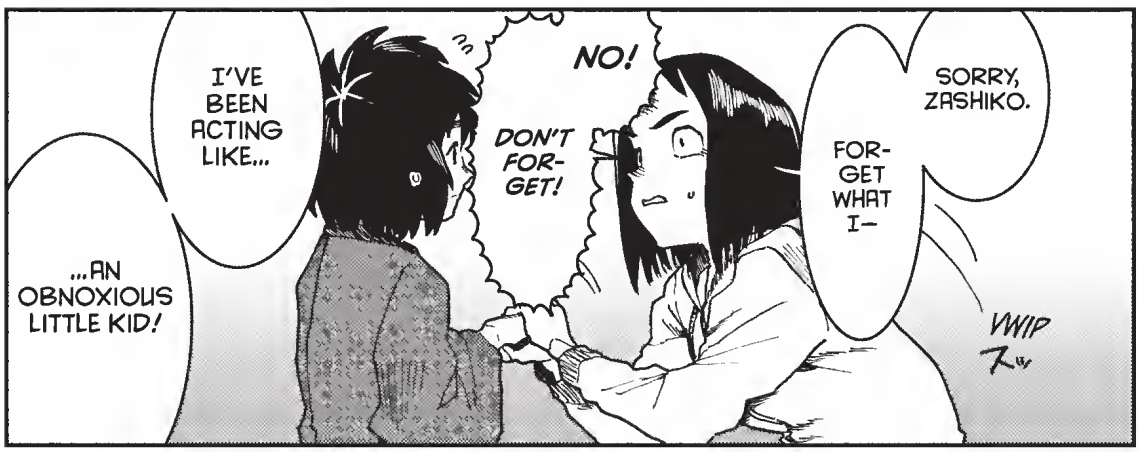
I'M SORRY, ZASHIKO...
AFTER YOU MADE ME SO HAPPY...
WHY CAN'T I EVER SEE...
...I'M GOING TOO FAR BEFORE I DO IT?
...
...
!
...

...

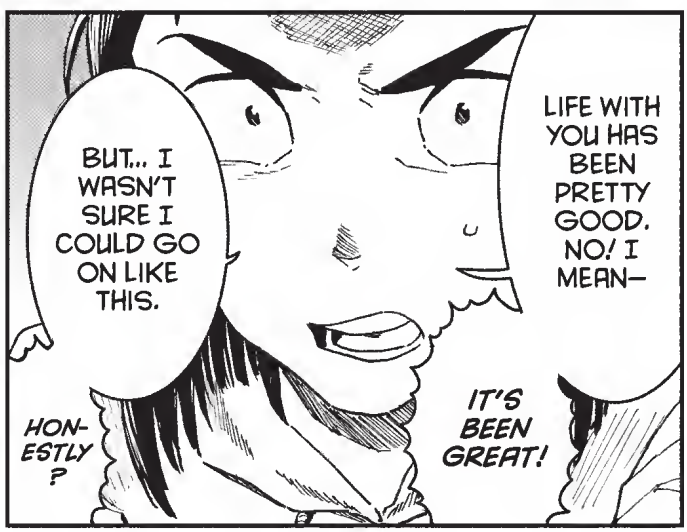
...WHERE WERE YOU?
THE KITCHEN CABINET?!
HOW'D YOU GET IN THERE?!
AND HOW'D YOU GET DOWN?!
...
WHY'D YOU GO IN THERE?

"SO I WOULDN'T BE IN YOUR WAY"?
"BECAUSE I CAN'T LEAVE THE HOUSE"...?
DID YOU THINK YOU COULD HIDE THERE FOREVER?!
HOW WOULD YOU EAT?!
OR GO POTTY ?!
DON'T WORRY ME LIKE THAT!
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I'VE DONE FOR Y—
...
...
CLICK
LOCK

...
SLAM
EEK!
POUND


I'VE BEEN ACTING LIKE...
...AN OBNOXIOUS LITTLE KID!
NO!
DON'T FOR-GET!
SORRY, ZASHIKO.
FOR-GET WHAT I—
VWIP

I KNEW IF I COULD CHANGE, BE MORE ADULT, THINGS MIGHT GET BETTER.
I WAS JUST AFRAID I'D REACH MY LIMIT FIRST.


BUT... I WASN'T SURE I COULD GO ON LIKE THIS.
HON-ESTLY?
LIFE WITH YOU HAS BEEN PRETTY GOOD. NO! I MEAN—
IT'S BEEN GREAT!

BUT I WAS TALKING TO MY FRIEND TODAY...
...AND SHE SAID HOW I'D CHANGED SINCE I MET YOU.
HOW ADULT I WAS.
THAT I LOOKED HAPPY.
I WANT TO CHANGE, IF I CAN.
ENJOY LIFE WITH YOU MORE.
MAYBE EVEN LEARN TO BE HAPPIER.
TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE, HUH?
FUN AND HAPPY...
GRIN
...ERM.
SCRATCH SCRATCH
BUT IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT ME.
ZA-SHIKO.
LET'S STAY TOGETHER.
AND IF WE LOSE THE APARTMENT...
I'LL KEEP THIS PLACE EVEN AFTER I GRADUATE...
WELL...
WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT!

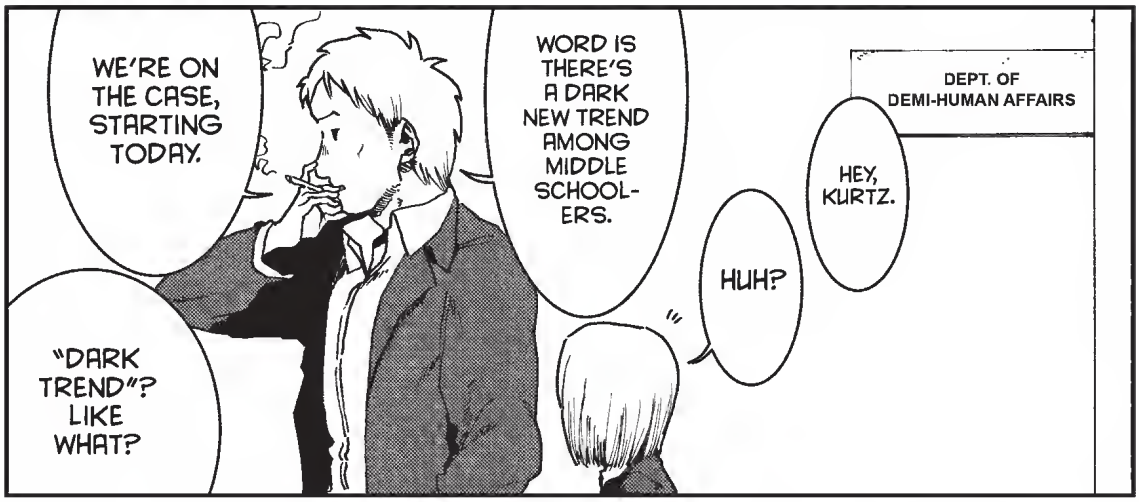
I'LL MAKE US BOTH HAPPY. I PROMISE.

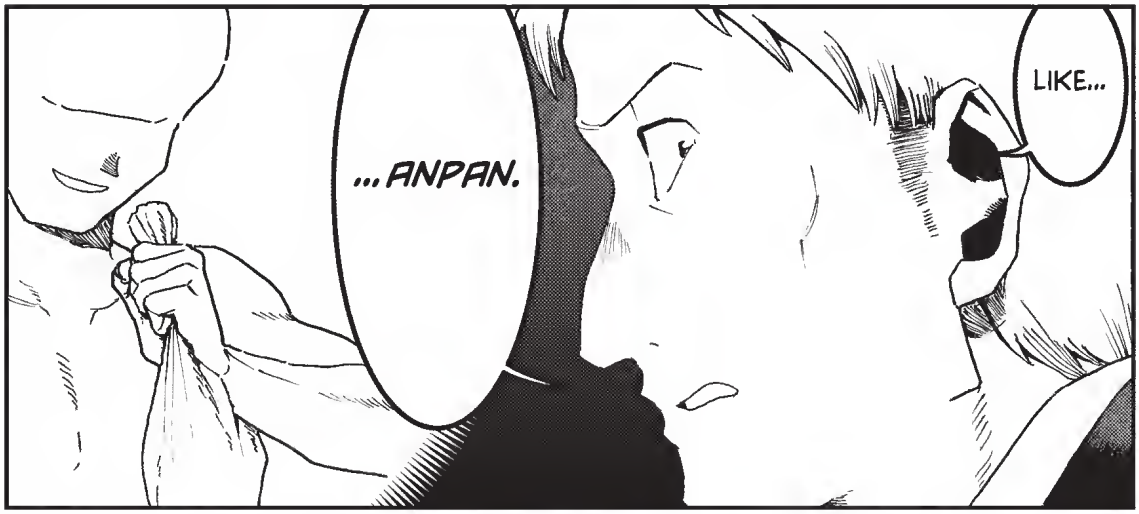
WHOOP!
...
SO LOUD...
OH WELL. NO ONE ELSE CAN HEAR.

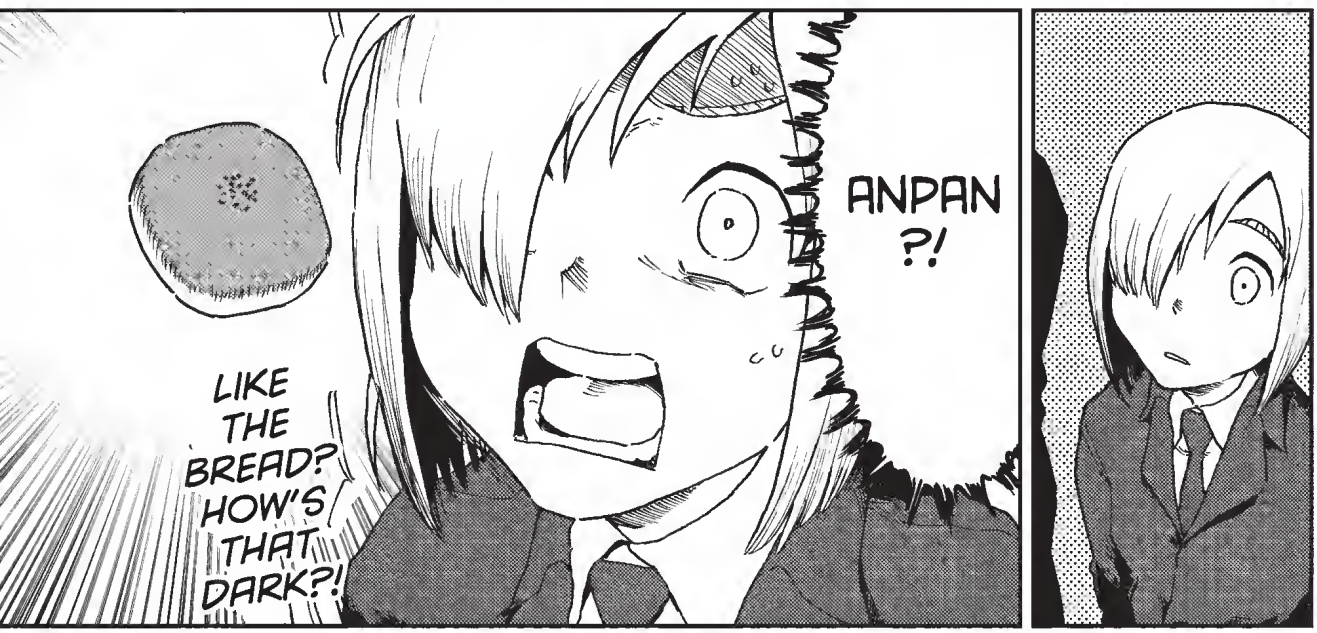
VOLUME 5/END

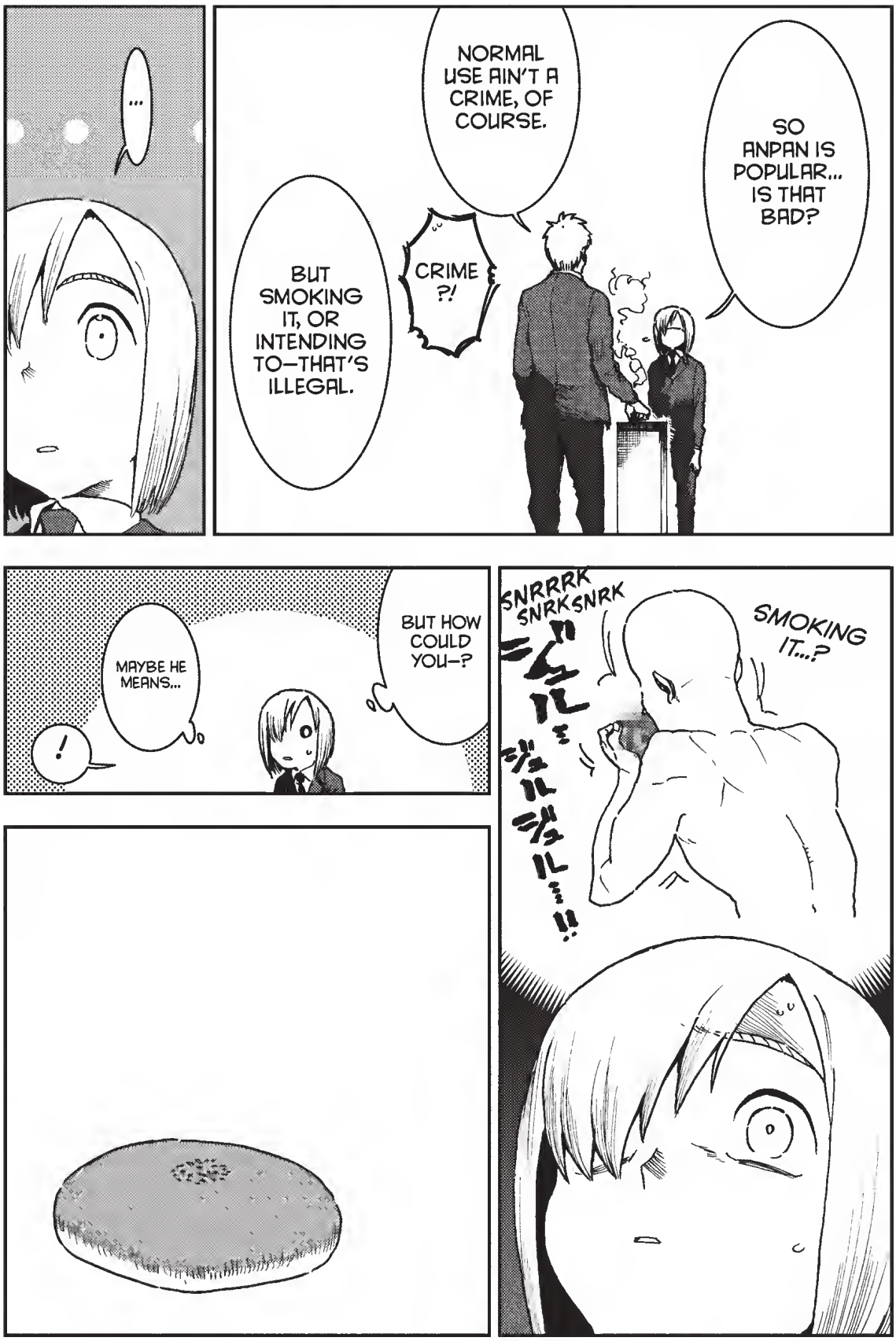
YOKO TAKA-HASHI...
HM?
AND THOSE DIS-TINCTIVE PUPILS...
...
SHEER COINCI-DENCE!

INTERVIEWS WITH MONSTER GIRLS

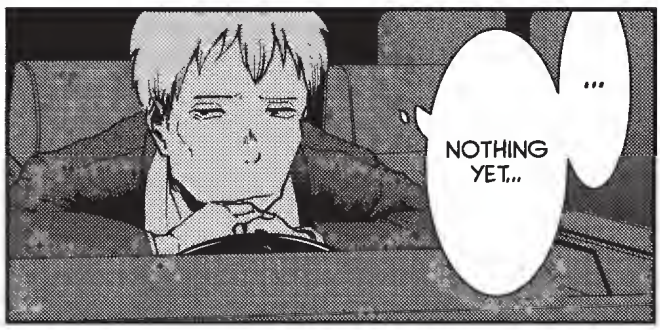

WE'RE ON THE CASE, STARTING TODAY.
WORD IS THERE'S A DARK NEW TREND AMONG MIDDLE SCHOOL-ERS.
DEPT. OF DEMI-HUMAN AFFAIRS
HEY, KURTZ.
HUH?
"DARK TREND"? LIKE WHAT?


...ANPAN.
LIKE...

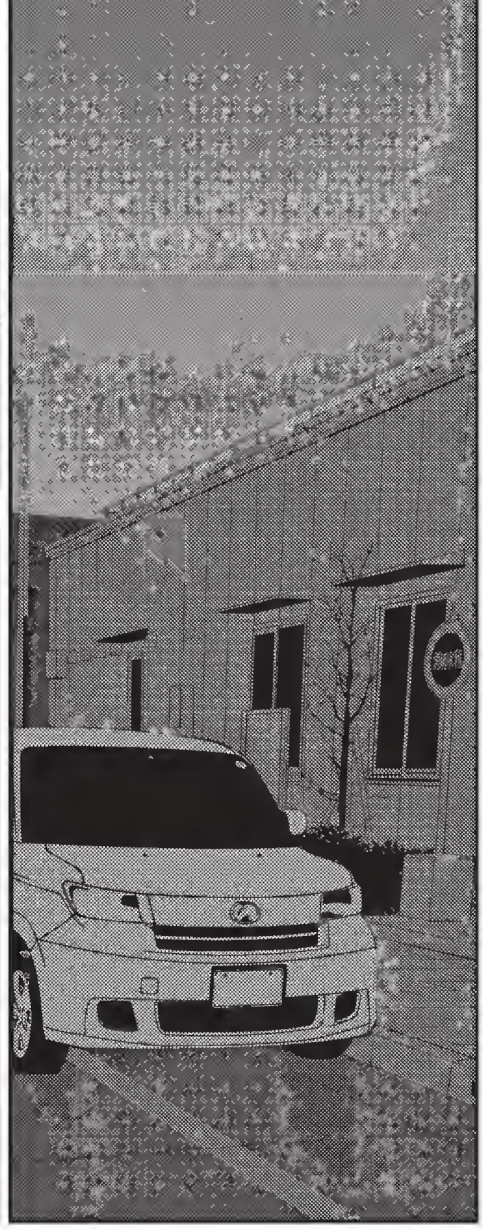

ANPAN ?!
LIKE THE BREAD? HOW'S THAT DARK?!


...
NORMAL USE AIN'T A CRIME, OF COURSE.
SO ANPAN IS POPULAR... IS THAT BAD?
CRIME ?!
BUT SMOKING IT, OR INTENDING TO—THAT'S ILLEGAL.
BUT HOW COULD YOU—?
MAYBE HE MEANS...
!
SNRRRK SNRKSNRK
SMOKING IT...?

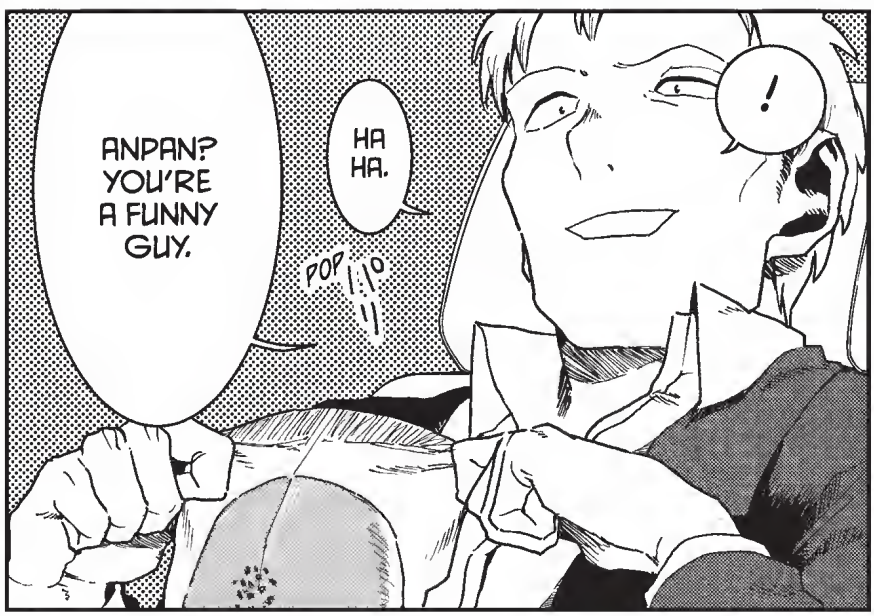
S-
S-
SLURRRP...
SLUR-
RRRP...
SLURP...
A
B
A
IN-
HUMAN
...
THAT'S...
THAT'S
UNFORGIV-
ABLE...
ANPAAAN!
ANPAAAN!
ANPAAAN!
THERE'S
NO BEAN
PASTE IN
THIS AN-
PAAAAN
!!
RIGHT YOU ARE.
WE HAVE TO SAVE
THESE YOUNG
PEOPLE FROM
THAT AWFUL FATE...
HUH?
...WE ARE
TALKING
ABOUT
BREAD,
RIGHT?
RIGHT!
LET'S
MOVE,
KURTZ!
DASH


...
NOTHING YET...

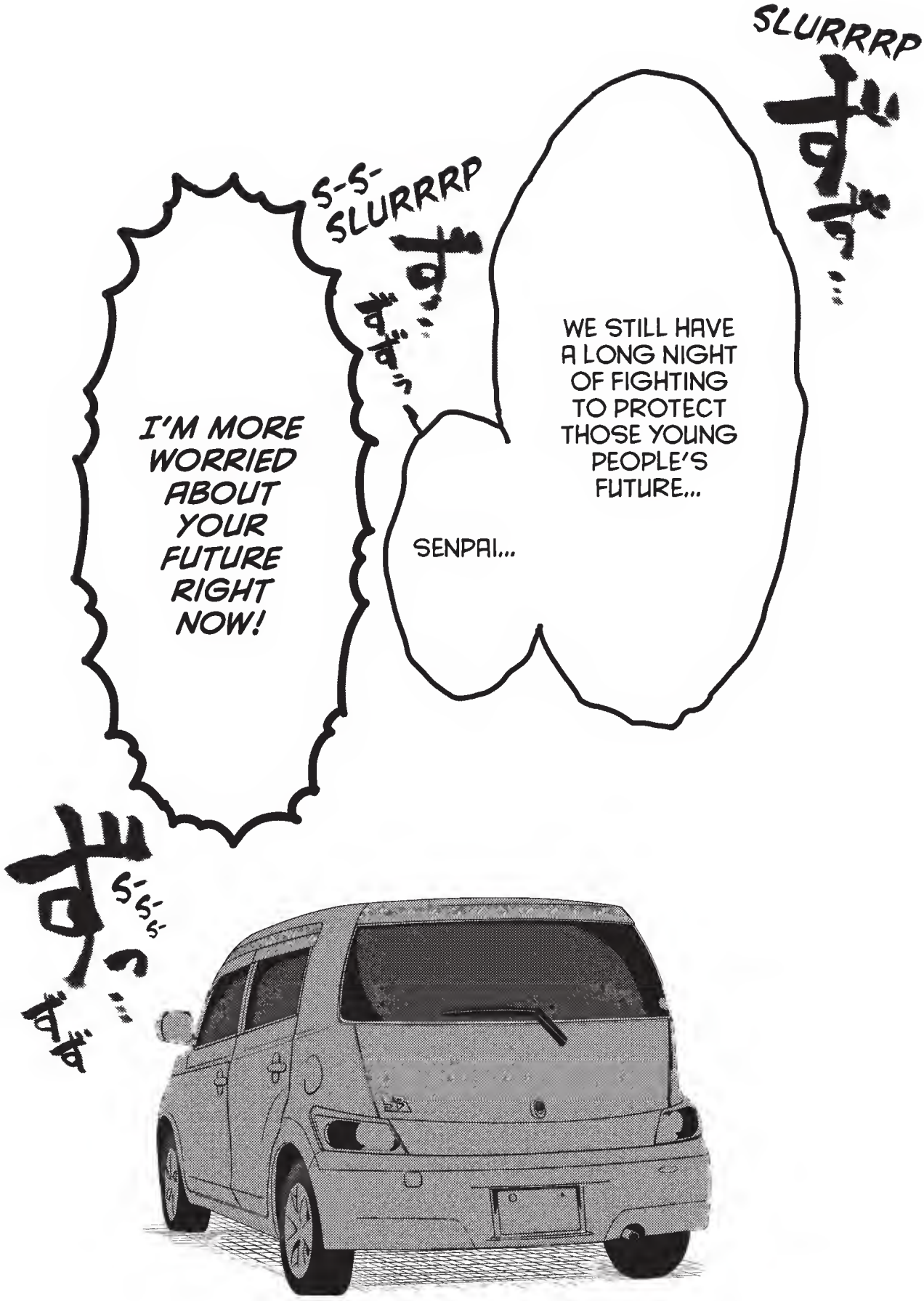
HOLDING UP OKAY?
I'VE GOT FOOD.
'PRECIATE IT.
RUSTLE



SLURP...


ANPAN? YOU'RE A FUNNY GUY.
HA HA.
POP
!

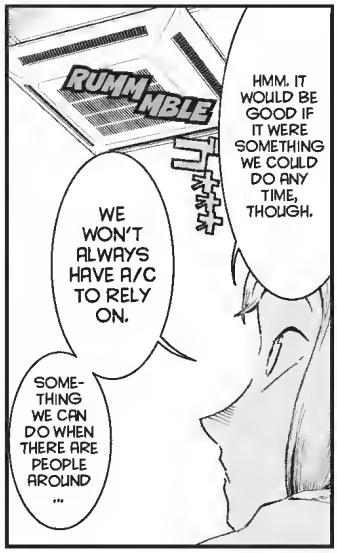
WHAT'RE Y' DOIN' ?!
YEEEK!
SLURRRP
S-SLURP
SLURP
SNRK
SNRK
BOY, YOU NEED STRONG LUNGS FOR THIS...
IT'S TOUGH!
NOT THE POINT!
EH HEH HEH...
COUGH
WHY WOULD Y' EVEN DO THAT?!
OH, DON'T WORRY.
GRIN
I'LL EAT THE BREAD LATER.
I'M NOT A MONSTER.
WHERE'D YOU EVEN LEARN TO EAT IT LIKE THAT?!
A CULT ?!


SLURRRP
WE STILL HAVE A LONG NIGHT OF FIGHTING TO PROTECT THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FUTURE...
SENPAI...
S-S-SLURRRP
I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR FUTURE RIGHT NOW!

TRANSLATION NOTES

Cicadas, page 20
Cicadas and the shrill, scratchy sound they make (*min, min* is the onomatopoeia in Japanese) are endemic to Japanese summers. When you hear their distinctive stridulation in anime or manga, you can almost feel the heat on your skin!

Watermelons, page 23
Eating watermelons is a popular way to beat the summer heat in Japan. However, fruit is often considerably more expensive in Japan than in the US.


RUMMMBLE
HMM. IT WOULD BE GOOD IF IT WERE SOMETHING WE COULD DO ANY TIME, THOUGH.
WE WON'T ALWAYS HAVE A/C TO RELY ON.
SOME-THING WE CAN DO WHEN THERE ARE PEOPLE AROUND ...

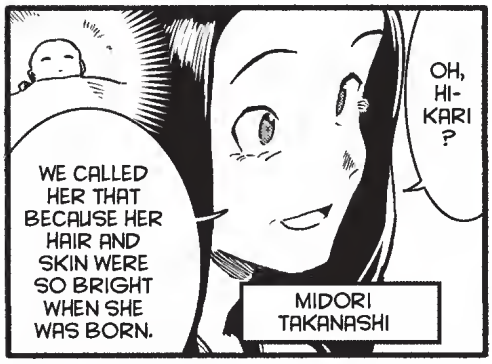
We Won't Always Have A/C, page 25
Many Japanese classrooms have minimal climate control. A space heater in winter and an open window in summer are sometimes all that is available.

Scary Stories, page 25
In Japan, scary stories are a summertime, rather than fall, tradition.

Like Steel, page 46
Sakie calls Tetsuo (panel 1) a *kanazuchi*, literally meaning a hammer, but figuratively referring to someone who can't swim. Then she puns on his name, "Tetsuo" which, in Japanese, is written using the characters for "steel" or "metal," and "man."

Calligraphy, page 75
A piece of calligraphy is partially visible in this panel (it can also be seen, again in part, on page 81). It is common for Japanese families to hang calligraphy somewhere in the house, often in the *tokonoma* (lit. "high place"), a raised area where items of special personal or spiritual importance are displayed. The visible part of the scroll in the Takanashi house reads "Every day is…" We can't say exactly what the rest of the phrase is, but it might conclude with something like "…new" or "…a good day."

Barley Tea, page 82
Barley tea (*mugi-cha*), typically served chilled rather than hot, is a common summer drink in Japan. Unlike green tea (*matcha* or *ryoku-cha*), it is brown and has an earthy flavor that's perfect for warm days.



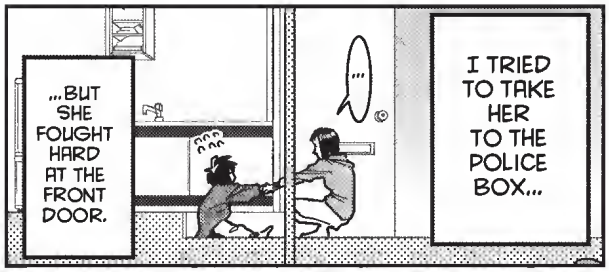
Bright, page 89
Hikari's name in Japanese means "light." The name Midori means "green."

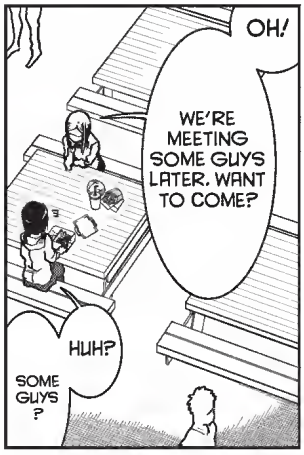
Just a Train Ride, page 91
The greater metropolitan area known as Tokyo covers a large swath of land, much of which is not the glittering city often associated with the name. Many residents of Tokyo live far away from downtown (often to avoid the astronomical housing prices) and make long commutes to work or school.

...FOR SOME REASON, A ZASHIKI-WARASHI, TOO.
ZASHIKI-WARASHI
A SPIRIT THAT IS PRIMARILY MENTIONED IN TALES FROM NORTHEASTERN JAPAN. LEGENDS SAY THAT A HOUSE WHERE A ZASHIKI-WARASHI LIVES WILL HAVE HAPPINESS.

Happiness, page 92
The word *shiawase* means a deep, abiding happiness, but it can also have nuances of good fortune or material abundance—making it harder for Yoko to know quite what to expect from her supernatural roommate.

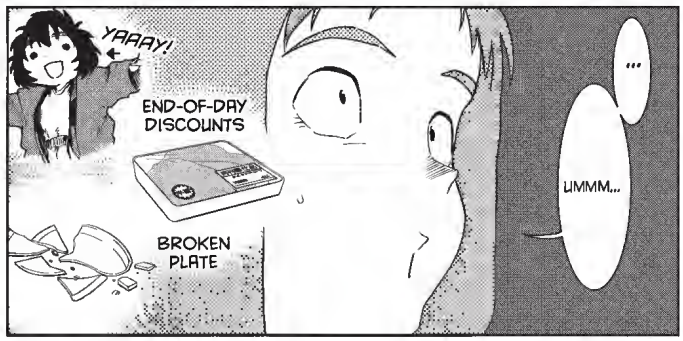
Police Box, page 95
Police boxes, or *koban*, are small outposts staffed by one or two officers, often 24/7. They are found almost everywhere, so for many matters (including asking directions!), people can go to the police box instead of the police station.

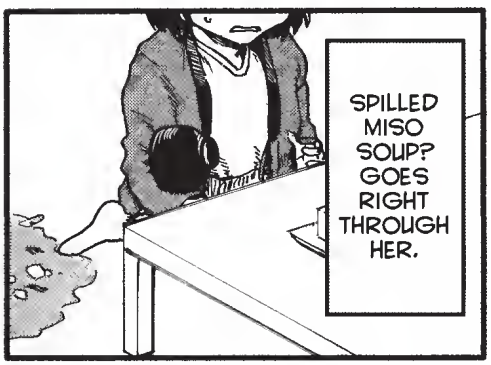




Meeting some guys, page 107
Yoko is actually being invited to a *go-kon*, or a group date, in which typically an equal amount of men and women go out to drinks, dinner, or other activities, and see who hits it off.

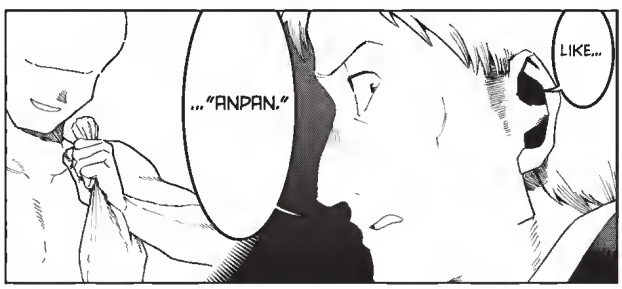
End-of-Day Discounts, page 108
Japanese supermarkets often discount fresh produce toward the end of the day in an attempt to move leftover stock. If she goes out with her friend, Yoko won't be able to snag the low-priced food.





Miso soup, page 117
Perhaps the most famous Japanese soup, this is a soybean-based broth made with vegetables, tofu, and other ingredients.

Anpan, page 133
Anpan is a sweet bread filled with red bean paste (it's what Kurtz pictures on the first page of this story). An extremely widespread snack, one of Japan's most popular cartoon characters is Anpan Man, a superhero whose head is an anpan bun.



INTERVIEWS WITH
MONSTER
GIRLS
WATCH THE SERIES ON crunchyroll™
www.crunchyroll.com/interviews-with-monster-girls
Based on the manga "Demi chan wa katarita!" by Petos originally serialized
in the monthly YOUNG MAGAZINE THE 3RD published by KODANSHA Ltd.
© Petos, KODANSHA/Demichan Production Committee. All Rights Reserved.

Interviews with Monster Girls 5

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

Interviews with Monster Girls volume 5 copyright © 2017 Petos
English translation copyright © 2017 Petos

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2017 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682337608

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

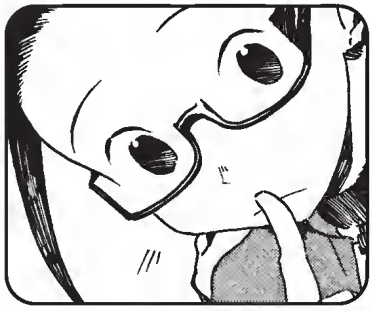
Translation: Kevin Steinbach
Lettering: Paige Pumphrey
Editing: Lauren Scanlan
Kodansha Comics edition cover design: Phil Balsman
peto_

STOP!

You are going the wrong way!

Manga is a completely different type of reading experience.

To start at the BEGINNING, go to the END!



That's right! Authentic manga is read the traditional Japanese way—from right to left, exactly the opposite of how American books are read. It's easy to follow: just go to the other end of the book, and read each page—and each panel—from the right side to the left side, starting at the top right. Now you're experiencing manga as it was meant to be.